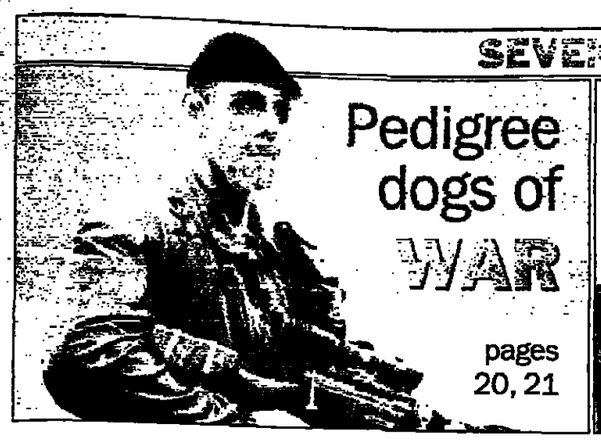
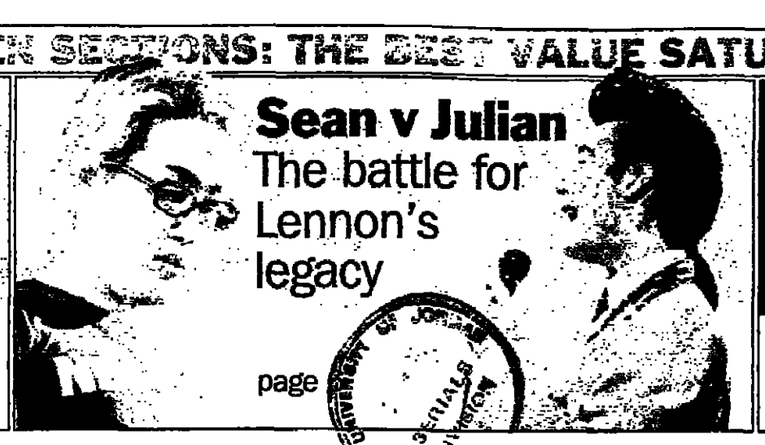
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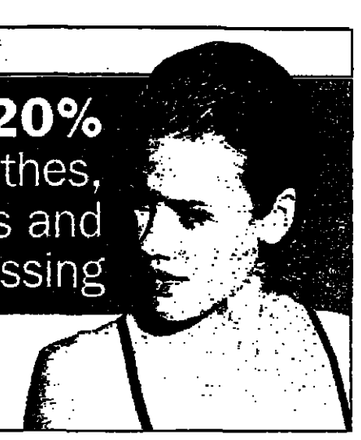
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THE TIMES

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No. 66,197 SATURDAY MAY 9 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Arms scandal engulfs Cook



By Nicholas Watt, Philip Webster and Michael Evans

ROBIN COOK'S embarrassment over the arms-to-Africa scandal deepened yesterday when the British company at the centre of the Sierra Leone affair named five senior diplomats who allegedly approved the shipment of weapons.

The letter was released by Sandline International as Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, admitted misleading MPs about a Customs and Excise investigation into the role of British mercenaries in overthrowing the military junta in Sierra Leone in March.

The four-page letter, containing extraordinary details of alleged government complicity in the operation, was sent to Mr Cook on April 24 and copied to George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

The letter had been intended as a "strictly private and confidential" attempt to straighten the record about Sandline's role in the affair. But when Mr Cook drew attention to the letter in the Commons, the company's lawyers, S.J. Berwin, decided it was "appropriate" to release it.

Although Sandline, which is run by Tim Spicer, a former Scots Guards lieutenant-colonel, did not want "to whip up a press frenzy", the published letter amounted to a direct challenge to the Government to come clean about alleged Foreign Office involvement in the overthrow of the junta which had seized power in Sierra Leone in May last year.

Why the Foreign Office called Robin Cook "Mr A4" ..... Page 2

The letter names Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, as the man who started the counter-coup operation by advising the ousted President Kabbah to ask Sandline for assistance. "At a meeting held shortly thereafter, Mr Penfold confirmed that he had ordered that approach and encouraged Sandline International's involvement." The letter said that negotiations proceeded with President Kabbah and "full briefings were given both personally and by telephone to representatives of Her Majesty's Government".

The letter names other Foreign Office officials: John Everard, who was then assistant head of the Africa Department (Equatorial), Craig Murray, who succeeded him, and Lynda St Cook and Tim Andrews, desk officers in the same department.

"Our clients were led to believe that clearance was given at head of department level," the letter to the Foreign Secretary said. The head of the department is Ann Grant.

Two Ministry of Defence officials were also briefed by Sandline, according to the letter. They were named as Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Hicks, who was in Conakry, Guinea, to support Mr Penfold while in exile from Sierra Leone during the coup regime, and Colonel Andrew Gale, the British Army military adviser to the United Nations special envoy to Sierra Leone.

The letter claims that officials at the US State Department and Pentagon were similarly briefed, and names a British diplomat at the Embassy in Washington, Philip Parham, a First Secretary, as having had meetings with a senior American official, allegedly about the Sandline operation. The most serious allega-

Continues on page 2, col 5

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The Times up Telegraph down

Record numbers of readers are appreciating the quality of *The Times* and deciding to drop *The Daily Telegraph*.

- **Readership of *The Times*** rose by 130,000 to 2,030,000 in the six months from October 1997 to March 1998, an increase of 7 per cent, while *The Daily Telegraph* lost 284,000 readers *(down 10 per cent)*, according to the National Readership Survey.
- **Among the under 45s,** *The Times* has 234,000 more readers than *The Daily Telegraph*. Readership of *The Times* was up by 10 per cent, the highest increase of any national newspaper, against a fall of 17.5 per cent for the *Telegraph*, the biggest drop of any national newspaper.
- **Among the affluent ABC1s,** readership of *The Times* was up by 5.6 per cent. *Telegraph* readership was down by 8.7 per cent.
- **Amongst men readers,** readership of *The Times* was up by 12 per cent as 280,000 deserted *The Telegraph*.

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Manhunt after armed doctor kills his lover

By Paul Wilkinson, Stephen Farrell and Kathryn Knight

A MANHUNT was launched across Britain yesterday for a doctor, believed to be a former SAS soldier, who shot and killed his lover during a row outside a pub. Thomas Shanks, 47, an anaesthetist, was on the run after Vicky Fletcher, 21, died from multiple gunshot wounds at Pontefract General Infirmary, West Yorkshire, where they both worked.

As detectives warned the public not to approach Dr Shanks, witnesses told how they dived to avoid the fusillade of bullets that killed Miss Fletcher outside the Castlefields pub in Castleford, at 10pm on Thursday.

In the West Midlands armed police sealed off two Birmingham schools where Dr Shanks's former wife, Julie, is a teacher, and their daughter, nine, is a pupil. Both, with other relatives, were taken from their home at 2am yesterday by police to safe houses.

West Yorkshire Police said Miss Fletcher, from Pontefract, was shot up to four times with a high-calibre automatic weapon as she enjoyed a drink with 80 regulars at the farewell party for the pub's landlord, Steve Thackray. She had multiple wounds to her back, arms and legs.

No weapon has been recovered but empty cartridge cases scattered across the pub car park near a pool of blood were last night being examined by forensic science experts.

Emma Booth, 19, a receptionist, told how her glass of Coke was "shattered by one shot". Mr Thackray, 30, said: "It was a miracle that no one else was injured ... The man had been in the pub earlier pacing around as if he was looking for someone. He then left but was seen walking up and down outside. Vicky came into the pub with another couple and must have spotted him outside. She left the pub and the next thing I knew, I heard noises like firecrackers or balloons going off."

He added: "Bullets were being fired through the windows of the pub and through the door. I don't know how many were fired but, suddenly, it went quiet. I ran outside where people were crowding around. Someone told me Vicky had been shot in the shoulder and the neck so I ran inside for duvets to keep her warm."

The West Yorkshire armed rapid response unit raided the doctor's flat in the hospital accommodation block during yesterday afternoon. .

Police described Dr Shanks as 5ft 8in tall, medium to stocky build, clean shaven and with a shaven head. He speaks with a Scots accent and drives a grey Peugeot.

Detective Superintendent Paul Johnston confirmed that the missing man telephoned his wife several times shortly after the shooting. He said: "Dr Shanks may be armed and is potentially dangerous."

Last night Army sources said Dr Shanks served with the SAS in Oman, fighting communist guerillas in the 1970s, before leaving the forces to qualify as a doctor in 1986. He returned as a medical reservist and is believed to have served in the Gulf War.



Shanks: served in Oman and was called up for Gulf War

Missing doctor, page 4



Vicky Fletcher was shot up to four times after going out to meet her lover in a pub garden

Police hunt for Iranian fugitive bomber

AN IRANIAN suspected of launching a parcel bomb campaign against his enemies before trying to flee the country was last night being hunted by police on charges of attempted murder (Shirley English writes).

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Cyrus Ghiassy, 57, a physicist and property dealer living in South East England, after an explosion at the Dundee home of a retired detective. Mr Ghiassy is alleged to have posed as an insurance salesman and handed three identical booby-trapped packages to a delivery depot in Thetford, Norfolk, this week. Two of the shoebox-size devices, intended for addresses in Fife and Kent, were intercepted by police.

Car at Heathrow, page 3



Peace bid flops

American efforts to rescue the Middle East peace process with a three-way summit in Washington next Monday appeared to have collapsed last night after talks in Jerusalem. ..... Page 14

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Blair is urged to block Livingstone for mayor

By Philip Webster Political Editor

FEARS of perpetual conflict between Downing Street and London's new authority were raised by senior Labour figures last night as they urged Tony Blair to "bite the bullet" and block Ken Livingstone from becoming the party's candidate for mayor.

As Labour looked back on satisfactory local elections in which they finished comfortably ahead of the Tories and Liberal Democrats and secured a runaway majority in favour of an elected mayor, the possibility that Mr Livingstone might get the job was described by Cabinet sources as "the worst problem facing Blair".

Some senior Labour politicians even suggested tongue in cheek that the Prime Minister should offer Mr Livingstone a job in the Government, sidelining him from a position where he could do far more damage.

They said that Mr Livingstone would undoubtedly use the post as a vehicle for his own political ambitions and "he and not William Hague or Paddy Ashdown would be seen as the main opposition to the Labour Government".

Mr Livingstone's call yesterday for a wealth tax on London "fat cat" directors — he called it a "special Cedric Brown greedy bastard rate" — was cited by Blair circle members as an example of the trouble he would cause.

The key question for Mr Blair is to decide in the next 10 days whether the National Executive Committee should draw up a shortlist excluding Mr Livingstone.

The Livingstone "problem" overshadowed yesterday's inquest into Thursday's poll, in which Labour's share of the vote was 38 per cent, the Tories 32 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 25 per cent.

Results, Pages 46, 47

Learning about golf on the degree course

By Tim Jones and David Charter

BRITAIN'S first degree in golf studies will set undergraduates on a course lasting three years which includes a day a week on green-keeping skills.

Before they can mark their card with a BA (hons), students will learn to shout "fore" in several languages and how to out-smart opponents in international matchplay.

Membership of a golf and country club, which normally costs £1,400, is included in the degree starting this autumn at the Buckinghamshire Chiltern University College, High Wycombe. There will be plenty of time for students to improve their handicaps as lectures take up just 12 hours a week.

The launch of the course is certain to stir controversy over the academic value of "dubious" degree subjects. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, launched a scathing attack last year on falling standards after several new universities launched sub-degree Higher National Diplomas in golf studies.

Mark Readman, the golf course leader, said students must have the equivalent of two A levels at grades B and C to claim one of the 14 places.

Mr Readman, who plays off 17, said: "It is not simply three years of playing golf. It is business studies with applications to golf."

'Disturbing developments'

The solicitors for Sandline International wrote to Robin Cook on April 24, setting out their version of events. This is the full text of that letter

'MEN WHO KNEW'

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE letter from Sandline to Robin Cook named eight officials the company claimed had full knowledge of the Sierra Leone plan. The Foreign Office officials were allegedly:

☐ Peter Penfold, 54, High Commissioner in Freetown, who left to take up temporary residence in Guinea when the coup took place in May 1997.

☐ John Everard, 41, assistant head of the Africa Department (Equatorial) until he moved on to another Foreign Office post in London this year. He resigned from the Foreign Office in 1984 but returned in 1987. He is a former ambassador in Minsk.

☐ Craig Murray, 39, who succeeded John Everard after a posting as First Secretary (political/economic) in the British Embassy in Warsaw.

☐ Lynda St Cook, desk officer in the Africa Department (Equatorial).

☐ Tim Andrews desk officer in the Africa Department and former deputy head of Port Louis mission.

☐ Peter Parham, 37, First Secretary (Chancery) at Washington Embassy. Described in Sandline letter as "Africa watcher".

The Defence Ministry officials named are:

☐ Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Hicks, who was sent to give support to Peter Penfold in mid-February when the High Commissioner in Sierra Leone was based at Conakry in neighbouring Guinea. He is now back in London.

☐ Colonel Andrew Gale who was the British Army military adviser to the UN special envoy to Sierra Leone.

Dear Foreign Secretary

Sierra Leone

WE have been consulted by Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer and Mr Michael Grunberg in relation to certain events regarding their involvement with affairs in Sierra Leone. It has become apparent that some disturbing developments in recent weeks involving the activities of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise appear to have occurred without the knowledge of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department and Trade and Industry or the Ministry of Defence. We are accordingly copying this letter to the appropriate Ministers.

As you will be aware, the coup in Sierra Leone last year which removed President Kabbah was roundly condemned, first by that country's African neighbours and then by the United Nations and you, Sir, were widely reported as offering President Kabbah the full support of Her Majesty's Government in restoring the lawful government to power in Sierra Leone.

Our clients are both UK nationals. Mr Spicer is an executive of a company called Sandline International, which is in the business of providing military assistance to lawful governments, and Mr Grunberg is a consultant to that company.

At the suggestion of your High Commissioner in Freetown, Mr Peter Penfold, President Kabbah asked our clients to provide such assistance. At a meeting held shortly thereafter Mr Penfold confirmed that he had initiated that approach and encouraged Sandline International's involvement.

Thereafter negotiations proceeded with President Kabbah and his representatives and, as those developed, full briefings were given both personally and by telephone to representatives of Her Majesty's Government. At the Foreign and Commonwealth Office those briefed included John Everard, Craig Murray, Linda St Cook and Tim Andrews and our clients were led to believe that clearance was given at Head of Department level. The Ministry of Defence personnel who were briefed included Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Hicks in Conakry and Colonel Andrew Gale, the British army military adviser to the UN Special Envoy to Sierra Leone.

Further, Mr Penfold himself called at our clients' office premises on January 28, 1998, just three weeks before the equipment now in issue was delivered, and was given full details of the arrangements including the number of personnel involved and the nature of the military equipment that was to be provided. He was also given a copy of Sandline International's strategic and tactical plan, its Concept of Operations, for its involvement in the Sierra Leone arena.

Our clients were assured throughout that the operation had the full support of Her Majesty's Government.

At the same time, our clients keep informed the US State Department at the highest level, including John Hirsch, the US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Charles Snyder, Director, Office of Regional Affairs and Dennis Linskey, Chief, West and Southern Africa Division. Furthermore, following support having been given for the proposed operation by both the US Department of State and the US Department of Defence (represented by Alan Holmes, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Special Operations), we understand that Michael Thomas, the Country Desk Officer for Sierra Leone at the US Department of State met with Philip Parham, the Africa Watcher at the British Embassy in Washington indicating the US Government's full support for Sandline International's involvement, which was no doubt reported back to your office in London in accordance with the proper procedure.

Accordingly, it is quite apparent that the involvement of Sandline International in support of President Kabbah had at all times had the approval of Her Majesty's Government and, should it become necessary, we would contend that a licence had been given within the meaning of the Sierra Leone (United Nations Sanctions) Order 1997.

As there is, apparently, now some disagreement between the officials in your Department and those in the Department of Trade and Industry as to whether that licence falls to be given by you as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs or by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, a copy of this letter is also being provided to her.

As you will, of course, be well aware President Kabbah and the lawful Government of Sierra Leone were duly restored to power. Sandline International's personnel were on hand and equipment, as arranged and approved, was duly delivered to the Military Observer Group of Ecowas. President Kabbah personally signed both the agreement with Sandline International for the provision of military assistance and the End User Certificate for the military equipment. Sandline International's involvement was quite open and indeed their personnel were invited aboard *HMS Cornwall* where they provided tactical and operational advice. Further, engineers from *HMS Cornwall* assisted in the repair of a helicopter which Sandline International was operating in support of President Kabbah.

Notwithstanding all of the foregoing, on Monday 30 March 1998 Mr Grunberg received a telephone call from one Andrew Breaden, an investigation Officer (Intelligence Unit) of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise National Investigation Unit. A meeting was arranged that same day, at Mr Breaden's request, with Mr Grunberg when full co-operation was provided and the involvement of your Department, including the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Defence and of the US State Department was explained.

However, at about 8.30am on Friday 3 April 1998, a number of Customs Officers entered our clients' business premises and also entered Lieutenant-Colonel Spicer's former matrimonial home and, later that day, entered his current home. All our clients' papers and computer records relating to the operation in Sierra Leone, as well as several other unrelated business matters, were removed and our clients were told that it was believed that there had been a breach of the Sierra Leone (United Nations Sanctions) Order 1997.

By letter dated April 8, 1998, written by our predecessors to Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, our clients sought to ascertain what disclosures were made to the Magistrate when seeking a warrant. No substantive response has been received.

Today, April 24, 1998, a written request was made to Hansard Management Services Limited of Guernsey to furnish information and to produce documents pursuant to the Sierra Leone (United Nations Sanctions) (Channel Islands) Order 1997, signed by Her Majesty's Solicitor General for Guernsey and served by officers of Her Majesty's Guernsey Customs and Excise, relating to suspected contraventions of Articles 3 and 6(2) of that Order. Hansard Management Services Limited provides Sandline International with administrative services in relation to its financial affairs. Delivery up of files has been required relating to all Sandline International's financial dealings, which cover a whole range of business beyond that relating to its involvement with Sierra Leone.

As we assume that the involvement of Her Majesty's Guernsey Customs and Excise was instigated by those having conduct of the inquiry in London, we have thought it appropriate to copy this letter to the Chief Customs Officer for Guernsey and to Her Majesty's Solicitor General for Guernsey under whose authority the formal request was made.

Needless to say, our clients find the actions of the Customs Officers to be at complete variance with the policy of Her Majesty's Government, as clearly expressed to them in the manner outlined above, and we can only suppose that full and proper inquiry was not made either before the investigation was initiated or following the meeting on March 30 when the position was explained.

Although this will no doubt be a matter of concern to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and to the Chairman of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, to each of whom we have also copied this letter, our clients' immediate interest is to ensure that the investigation is brought to the attention of those Ministers whose Departments were intimately concerned in the matters being investigated.

Sandline International was involved quite openly and with the full prior knowledge and approval of Her Majesty's Government, with an operation which involved assisting, with both personnel and military equipment, the restoration of the lawful government of Sierra Leone, which was the express purpose for which sanctions were applied in the first place. Far from any offence having been committed in these circumstances, it would merit serious criticism that one department of government should be investigating, to the considerable inconvenience and distress of our clients, a matter which was conducted with the knowledge and approval of another department.

Her Majesty's Customs and Excise has sought to arrange interviews under caution with our clients on Wednesday May 6 and Thursday May 7, 1998. Needless to say, we have advised our clients that it would be inappropriate for them at present to co-operate further with those inquiries, which are no doubt as much a matter of embarrassment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as they are oppressive of our clients. In any event, we would hope that you could have investigated matters sufficiently over the next week to be able to respond to us in good time before the date proposed for commencement of those interviews.

We and our clients are at your disposal to discuss this matter further with you, or with whomsoever you appoint to investigate this matter, as we appreciate that, necessarily, this letter merely outlines the events in question and further information and clarification might be required in order to enable you to reach the conclusion, as we have done, that recent events were an abberation which, for the benefit of all concerned, should be brought to an end immediately.

We remain, Sir

Yours faithfully

S. J.Berwin & Co

S J Berwin & Co

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Dear Foreign Secretary

Sierra Leone

Spicer and Mr Michael



Tim Spicer



President Kabbah



Robin Cook carries a red box with Gaynor Regan, who later became his wife

OFFICIAL DISTRACTIONS FOR THE MAN CALLED MR A4

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND HELEN RUMBELOW

MISCHIEVOUS diplomats in the Foreign Office have called Robin Cook "Mr A4" because of his insistence on keeping reports summarised to a single sheet of paper. An early complaint of senior officials was that Mr Cook did not "do his boxes" — read the files of priority policy papers given to the Foreign Secretary at the end of each day for his urgent attention and decision.

Mr Cook, diplomats complained when he took office, was far less diligent than his predecessors, preferring to rely on his quick intelligence and decisiveness.

He did not like to be bothered with stacks of paper and detail in the late evenings. It has been suggested that for this reason he did not see the letter sent to him on April 24 by solicitors for Sandline.

Those who work closely with him partially confirm the complaint. "I have seen him read quite thick briefs from cover to cover," one diplomat said. "He does not like to skim things and then sign them off. For this reason probably the volume has to be less." He agreed that he had not always received a prompt reply to papers put in Mr Cook's boxes. But he said that it was unfair to compare him with Douglas Hurd, one of his Conservative predecessors. "He was a real creature of the Office. He always read everything."

Mr Cook may well have missed the key details of the Sandline contract. On January 28, the day that Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, was visiting the offices of Sandline International to discuss arms shipments, Mr Cook was preoccupied with the furore surrounding the dismissal of his former diary secretary.

While Mr Cook officially had engagements with the Crown Prince of Bahrain, he had to deal with the fallout from his revelation the day before that he had considered replacing Anne Bullen with his mistress, Gaynor Regan. That day, the Queen issued a surprise statement, denying that he had abandoned the royal tour of India to attend to his girlfriend.

On February 21, the day that Sandline arms were said to be shipped from Bulgaria to Ecomog troops, Robin Cook steered clear of the Foreign Office, staying at home in his Livingstone constituency, before returning to London for private engagements.

On March 30, Sandline said they received a telephone call from an investigation officer at Customs and Excise, and later that day arranged a meeting to explaing the involvement of the Foreign Office in their arms deal.

Mr Cook was that day in Brussels with Ms Regan, then his fiancée, to chair the opening of accession negotiations for new EU entrants.

On April 24, when the letter from Sandline giving full disclosure of the Foreign Office's involvement was sent to Mr Cook, he may have been somewhat distracted by more outings with his new wife.

The previous evening was the newlyweds' first public engagement, at the Easter banquet in London. And that night, he had something even more exciting to look forward to: a trip to Belgium to open a museum with his bride.



Penfold: office visit

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COOK ARMS SCANDAL

Continued from page 1

tion is the claim that Mr Penfold visited the Sandline premises in London in January, three weeks before the shipment of arms was delivered to the Nigerian-led West African forces that overthrew the junta. Mr Penfold, the letter said, had been given details of the arms, the Sandline personnel to be involved and the tactics to be employed.

Although the letter makes clear that Sandline believed all its meetings with Foreign Office officials had the backing of the Government, it makes no reference to ministers. Mr Cook, who said nothing yesterday about Sandline's latest claims, told MPs on Wednesday that he was first told about the letter on April 28, four days after it had been sent. Sandline was furious with Mr Cook's Commons statement, which it considered misleading.

If the Sandline allegations are true, they make a mockery of Mr Cook's claims that he is pursuing an ethical foreign policy. They would also raise serious questions about the future of Mr Lloyd and the credibility of Mr Cook. If, as Mr Cook has stated, ministers knew nothing about the shipment and the involvement of top-ranking officials, the letter would suggest a Foreign Office running out of control.

Downing Street said yesterday that Mr Cook and Mr Lloyd retained the "absolute confidence" of the Prime Minister. However, Mr Lloyd's position is severely weakening. The customs investigation into the suspected breach of a United Nations arms embargo imposed on Sierra Leone began on March 10, two days before Mr Lloyd denied newspaper allegations of British complicity in the counter-coup.

On Tuesday of this week Mr Lloyd told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee that he had learnt of the investigation only on May 1. In fact, he was told in mid-April, as he was forced to admit yesterday.

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هكذا من الأصل

Father-in-law gives Gullit yellow card

FIONA HANSON



Ruud Gullit and his 19-year-old girlfriend Estelle Cruyff, niece of Johan and the mother of Joelle, one of Gullit's five daughters



Cristina Pensa, Gullit's estranged wife and mother of two girls

Estranged wife also tackles star, say **John Goodbody** and **Damian Whitworth**

WHEREVER Ruud Gullit goes controversy is never far behind. Now that the flamboyant Dutchman is kicking his heels after parting company with Chelsea Football Club, the rows that dogged his playing and managerial careers are consuming his private life.

Yesterday Gullit was tackled hard over his behaviour by both the father of his girlfriend and his estranged wife. Gullit himself was keeping his dreadlocked head down.

On one side of a tug of love across Europe is Estelle Cruyff, 19, his girlfriend and mother of his daughter Joelle. Estelle is the niece of Johan, the Dutch football legend.

On the other side is Cristina Pensa, 32, the wife of the former Dutch international, a Milanese model and mother of two more daughters. The pair separated in 1995.

Watching the dispute from the touchline is Gullit's first wife, Yvonne de Vries, 35, his teenage sweetheart and the mother of his two remaining children.

Henny Cruyff, Estelle's father and brother of Johan, said yesterday that he feared his daughter's relationship with Gullit was doomed. He has been regarded as a close friend of Gullit but he told *De Telegraaf*, the Dutch newspaper: "I am desperately worried that Ruud may be treating my daughter as a casual lay, even though she has had his baby. My family is very angry over Ruud's strange behaviour. I believe he's treating my daughter badly."

Mr Cruyff, said he was shocked over the intimate details that came out in Gullit's autobiography last week about his love life with Estelle. "I want my beautiful daughter to know that she is welcome if she turns up with the baby and wants to come home. I ask myself what expectations she has with a man who has four other kids with two wives and they all want his attention."

His remarks appeared to be a response also to Ms Pensa who was quoted as saying yesterday: "Ruudi no longer wants to divorce me." However, she added that she was baffled at his behaviour, saying that he has "lost his way. He thinks he is God and we are all nobodies."

Gullit, who was sacked from Chelsea in February, is reported to be living on the outskirts of Amsterdam with Estelle and their baby.

Mr Cruyff said that Gullit's autobiography "shocked and embarrassed" the family because of the intimate details of his life with Estelle. The autobiography recorded Gullit's "hurt and bitterness" at being separated from Quincy, six, and Cheyenne, four, his daughters from his marriage to Ms Pensa. Yet his wife claims that despite legal battles for access, he has not seen the children for more than six months.

Gullit had an outstanding career as a player, particularly for AC Milan, and he also captained Holland to victory in the 1988 European championship. But he refused to represent his country in the 1994 World Cup.

He joined Chelsea as a player in 1995, becoming a manager a year later, leading the club to its FA Cup triumph last season. However, earlier this season the club claimed it was unhappy with his pay demands and "playboy lifestyle".

Plague genes 'hold key to Aids battle'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN survivors of the Black Death, the plague that ravaged the Continent in the 14th century, may hold the key to defeating Aids, scientists believe.

The epidemic of bubonic plague which swept from Asia across Europe in 1346, spread by rats and fleas, radically altered the European genetic pool, scientists at the National Cancer Institute suggest.

Survivors of the plague may have passed on to their descendants a genetic mutation which now gives them protection against the modern plague of Aids.

Scientists have identified a mutation in the genes of immune system cells which suddenly became common among Europeans 700 years ago. That suggests that it gave people carrying it better than average resistance to the plague — survival of the fittest — and that they passed this on to their survivors.

"The chance of this gene randomly drifting up [to the levels now found among white Europeans] is unlikely," says Stephen O'Brien, the molecular biologist who heads the research team, in this month's *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

If people have inherited the mutation, called CCR5-delta 32, from both parents they will be immune to infection by the HIV virus.

Together with researchers at Stanford University, the team now plans to test — using laboratory cultures of plague — whether the bacterium also uses the CCR5 receptor.

Research shows that just over 10 per cent of white people of European origin carry the mutation — and up to 14 per cent in Scandanavia. The presence of the mutation is lower in the south-east, where the disease entered Europe from Central Asia. Only 4 per cent of Greeks carry the mutation, and only 2 per cent of Central Asians.

People of African descent do not carry the mutation. The plague scarcely touched the African continent, which is now ravaged by HIV.

Bomb suspect's car found at Heathrow

Other potential victims alerted to be on guard, report **Shirley English** and **Stewart Tendler**

LAWYERS involved in a bitter court battle with an Iranian businessman were warned by police yesterday to tighten their security after a private investigator and his wife were seriously injured by a parcel bomb.

Police suspect that Mike Coyne, a retired Dundee detective specialising in handwriting comparisons for court cases, was singled out after acting as an expert witness in a case involving Cyrus Ghiassy three years ago. Express delivery companies and Royal Mail depots have also been alerted for bombs as police began an international hunt for Ghiassy, 57, an Iranian-born property dealer and phsycist.

Mr Coyne, 63, and his wife Margaret suffered multiple injuries when Mr Coyne opened the package in an office room at the back of their home. The bomb was a sophisticated device which scattered nails and tacks when it was detonated.

It was packed into a parcel the size of a brick and was delivered by a man of Middle Eastern appearance to the TNT depot at Thetford, Norfolk, on Wednesday. The man told staff he was working for an insurance company and came back the next day with two more parcels for addresses in Kent and Fife. The two parcels were still at the depot when Mr Coyne and his wife Margaret were hurt. Army bomb disposal experts spent over four hours dismantling the bombs after staff searched the depot.

One of the devices was addressed to the invalid wife of Derek Lawson, the lawyer who successfully sued Ghiassy in 1995. At that time he was living in St Andrews, Fife, and embroiled in a bitter row over unpaid legal fees.

The dispute involved bills for conveyancing on properties in the town and in Dundee dating back to July 1988. The bill also included VAT and fees for the sale and purchase of houses and flats. At the civil case, heard in Dundee Sheriff Court, Ghiassy claimed that he had already paid the bills and had received hand-written invoices from Mr Lawson, a local lawyer. Mr Coyne, a retired scenes of crime officer who ran his own private investigation agency, gave evidence that the writing was not Mr Lawson's and that the invoices had been forged.

Mr Coyne, formerly head of the identification bureau of Tayside police, is an international expert in handwriting. He retired in 1985 to set up his own private investigation agency working primarily with defence solicitors. He is a member of the Association of British Investigators, and the World Association of Detectives.

In June 1995, the sheriff ordered Mr Ghiassy to pay the full amount. Hugh McKay, a principal for Lawson, Coull and Duncan; Michael Stevenson, a company accountant, and Robert Hughes, Cupar Sheriff Clerk, also gave evidence against Ghiassy. Part of the evidence also involved telephone calls made by Mr Ghiassy to Lawson, Coull and Duncan from Norwich.

After the case Ghiassy moved to the South East of England and the case was forgotten until the bomber, driving a rented black Ford Fiesta, turned into the Thetford depot. The car was found at 3am yesterday at Heathrow and last night police were examing materail discovered by officers from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch

Defendant claims he knows real art thief

BY TIM JONES

A CAT burglar yesterday claimed he had concealed the identity of the young man he thought had stolen a £650,000 Picasso because he regarded himself almost as his father.

Peter Scott, 67, told Snaresbrook Crown Court: "There is a sense of loyalty in all kinds of business and sometimes you have to pay the price of standing up."

Mr Scott, whose victims included Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor, denied handling the painting, *Tete de Femme*, which was stolen from the Lefevre Gallery, Mayfair, a year ago. The prosecution alleges that Mr Scott was trying to sell it for £75,000.

But Mr Scott said that after hearing about the robbery on the radio he thought immediately the crime had been committed by a young man to whom he had become very close. "Only he was mad enough to have done it."

He added: "I was for a number of years virtually his surrogate father." It was this man who had given him a suitcase — with the painting — and asked him to pass it on to a property dealer.

The trial continues.

Banker jailed for stalking campaign

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A RETIRED international banker used the storyline from a novel about a stalker to wage a campaign of fear against a woman neighbour he targeted after seeing her get into a friend's Bentley.

Keith Tancock plagued Margaret Vesty with threatening notes left either on her car in a private car park or pushed through her letterbox so she knew her stalker was a neighbour. Miss Vesty, a senior manager with an airline, and Tancock both rented flats in an exclusive development in Haywards Heath, West Sussex, surrounded by security gates.

Tancock, who worked for Lloyds in Singapore and Hong Kong, slipped into crime after the collapse of his career and marriage.

Lewes Crown Court in Sussex heard how he posted a copy of the thriller *Night Prey*, by William Sandford, in which a serial killer called Koop stalks his women victims, to Miss Vesty. Tancock's note to her read: "Koop lives, be very very careful". In other notes he made veiled threats and claimed to have tracked her around Sussex. On one occasion she found a dead bird pinned to her car with a fruit knife and a note in its beak read "Deja Dead".

The court heard his campaign frightened Miss Vesty, aged 46, so much that she suspected everybody around her. She felt she was going to be killed by the stalker, who threatened to strike on the winter solstice.

Tancock was eventually caught red-handed by police who mounted an undercover surveillance operation at her flat. When interviewed by police he said he wanted Miss Vesty, with whom he had never spoken, off the estate because he had taken a dislike to her.

Brendan Anderson, prosecuting, said police who raided Tancock's flat discovered a string of items which related to his campaign of terror.

Jailing Tancock for a year, Judge Richard Hayward said his actions were deliberate, calculated and evil. Tancock, who admitted putting a person in fear of violence, was also banned from ever trying to contact Miss Vesty and from visiting Haywards Heath for five years.

He also admitted shoplifting involving £535 of goods, some of which he used to design the notes he sent to Miss Vesty.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

IN EXCESS



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Tomorrow in The Sunday Times Magazine

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Missing doctor served with SAS in the Gulf

Fugitive anaesthetist boasted of his army experience, write **Paul Wilkinson** and **Stephen Farrell**

THOMAS SHANKS, the fugitive doctor whose lover was shot dead outside a pub, told former colleagues that he had been in the SAS, it emerged last night.

Born in 1951 in Glasgow, he joined the Army in 1968 and served for 10 years as a regular soldier. Although the Ministry of Defence refused to confirm his service details, former SAS members last night recalled a "tough, hard" young Scot who served in the regiment's B Squadron in Oman fighting communist guerillas in the mid 1970s.

"Tommy was a bloody good man, a brave and dedicated patrol medic who was in the thick of the action many times," said one former comrade. "He fought and stood his ground in Oman. For one so young he was brilliant. He took part in some real nasty hand-to-hand fighting when we cleared a cave complex."

In 1978 he left the Army, determined to better himself, and took A Levels. One former SAS officer said: "He decided to leave us to go and get himself educated so he could fulfill his dearest wish, which was to be a doctor. He was a thoroughly good soldier and his decision to leave was a great loss to the regiment."

He enrolled at Birmingham University as a mature student to study medicine. While there, in 1983, he rejoined the medical services, this time as an officer, and graduated as a doctor in 1986. It is during this time, when he is thought to have served as a reservist, that he met his future wife, Julie.

Last night one former Army colleague said that he had served in the Gulf, and speculated that he could be suffering from stress-related illness.

After leaving the Army for the second time in the early 1990s, he worked at a series of hospitals in Essex, Worcester and Birmingham before arriving at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, where he worked from July 1993 to December 1994, around the time his marriage broke up.

One former colleague at New Cross said that he had included details of his SAS service on his CV. He divorced seven years ago, but often visited his daughter and ex-wife at her widowed mother's house in King's Heath, Birmingham.

It was after moving to work as an anaesthetist at Pontefract General Infirmary in 1995 that he met Victoria Fletcher, with whom he began his long-standing but "stormy" relationship. Her father Mick, mother Jeanette and brother Timothy, 18, were last night too upset to comment at the family's semi-detached council house in Knottingley. Miss Fletcher, 21, left school four years ago and trained as a student nurse at Pontefract. Friends described her as "a bubbly, fun-loving girl" who was well-liked. She lived on the second floor of the hospital's nursing quarters until she qualified as a registered nurse last September, and moved out a few months ago into her own flat.

Margaret Wilkinson, 48, a colleague, said: "She was a really, clean-living girl, always well turned out. She was really nice and I'll miss her."

It was while drinking with friends that Miss Fletcher was shot at least four times with a high-calibre automatic weapon, suffering multiple injuries that proved fatal. Police believe Dr Shanks may also have been involved in a disturbance at the Lamplighter pub in Castleford around 8.40pm. The shooting happened 1½ hours later as up to 80 regulars at the Castlefields were enjoying a farewell party for Steve Thackray, the landlord.

An armed guard was last night outside Dr Shanks's quarters in the hospital, and officers appealed for the doctor to contact them.



JOHN GILES

An armed officer patrols the grounds of Pontefract General Infirmary last night

Staff evacuated in power failure at Dounreay

By Nick Nuttall, *Environment Correspondent*

A SERIOUS power failure has hit the Dounreay nuclear plant, forcing the evacuation of 300 workers and concern among government inspectors that safety systems were temporarily out of control.

The incident began at 9.00pm on Thursday when an excavator cut the mains electricity to the fuel-cycle area. It is awaiting approval from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to process spent, highly enriched, uranium flown in from Georgia in the former Soviet Union.

The emergency back-up power supplies from diesel generators should have kicked in, but also failed. That part of the plant was without power until lunchtime yesterday.

During the blackout, ventilation and control systems for processing spent fuel rods were out of operation. Sources close to the government's nuclear inspection team raised serious concerns over the case. One said: "I view the circumstances surrounding the incident as being a potentially serious loss of control."

Kevin Dunion, director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said that had the plant been fully operational, there could have been a disaster such as nuclear explosion. "It is absolutely incredible that an area so critical to operations at Dounreay can be left without power so easily. It was extremely fortunate that these plants are working on a low-key basis at present," he said.

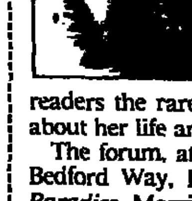
Lorraine Mann, of Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, which accepted the need to bring in spent fuel from Georgia on nuclear proliferation grounds, said: "This is the most serious breach of safety in Dounreay's 40 year history."

The fuel-cycle area is currently not fully operational pending the upgrade and approval from the NII. Dr Roy Nelson, Dounreay's director, said that the only power available in the complex for about 12 hours was the small amount supplied from batteries to operate the devices which monitor liquid and gas discharges into the sea and air.

A Dounreay spokesman rejected claims that had the fuel cycle area been fully operational there could have been a disaster: "It automatically closes down when there is a power failure."

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Toni Morrison



TONI MORRISON, the Nobel prize winning author, will be reading from her long-awaited new novel, *Paradise* (Chatto & Windus £16.99), at a Times/Dillons Forum on Monday May 18. This event, chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, offers readers the rare opportunity to ask Morrison questions about her life and work.

The forum, at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1, marks the publication of *Paradise*, Morrison's first book for five years. The admission price of £10 (*concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid ID*) includes £2 off copies of *Paradise*.

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Mercy for the hitman who spared his target

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

A CONTRACT killer who took pity on his intended victim after she pleaded for her life received mercy from the Old Bailey yesterday. Orville Wright was given the minimal sentence of 2½ years, and the woman he spared wants to help him financially.

Wright, 26, said he had been offered £5,000 by a former lover of Theresa Pitkin to murder her. At 9.30pm on December 21, 1996, he broke into her flat, grabbed a kitchen knife and told her to lie on the floor with material in her mouth.

However, Ms Pitkin, 30, who had received other threats, remained calm and talked to her attacker to find out why he had agreed to take on the contract. They talked for three hours.

Wright slowly revealed that he needed the money to buy a return ticket to his home in Jamaica. He said he had come to Britain on a trip with his cousin but had become stranded and desperate after his cousin returned to the Caribbean with their tickets.

Wright quickly lost his nerve and admitted that he had been hired by Ms Pitkin's ex-lover, David Martin, 30. Ms Pitkin told the court: "I thought he was going to rape me, but then he told me he had been contracted to kill me. He said he was being paid £4,000 and if he did the job 100 per cent he would get £5,000. We talked quite a bit. He said he was going to kill me for money. He got cold feet and would not kill me."

Wright, of Bruce Grove, North London, was found guilty last month of aggravated burglary with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He claimed that he had gone into the flat to warn her about the contract killing but never intended to carry it out.

Mr Martin denies knowledge of the deal and has not been charged. During the trial, Mark Hill, for the prosecution said: "He was a hitman about to carry out the killing and that he did not do it is a great relief to Miss Pitkin and others. He is a hitman who lost his nerve."

The prosecution added that out of empathy for Wright's situation, Ms Pitkin, of Tottenham, North London, had since offered to pay for his flight to Jamaica.

Passing sentence, Judge David Murchie said: "I can't forget her words that you were a hitman who lost his nerve. She said that you couldn't go through with it and got cold feet and could not kill her." He added that usually a man who breaks into a strange woman's house masked and brandishing a knife would have been given a substantial sentence. However, every report of Mr Wright, who worked as a legal clerk in Jamaica for seven years, suggested he was of good character with no previous criminal convictions.



Efforts to reinvent hockey as a vibrant and sexy activity for the street-smart woman were endorsed yesterday by the president of the sport's governing body (Carol Midgley writes).

An advertising campaign designed to banish the Victorian "jolly hockeysticks" image, bottom left, for something altogether more arresting, top left, has been launched, featuring Lucilla Wright, the 18-year-old England international, seen in match gear, right. The image to woo young male spectators to next week's international matches upset some members of the international team who claimed it was exploitative. Monica Pickersgill, president of the English Hockey Association, who was in America, asked for a copy to be faxed to her. She said yesterday that she checked that neither Miss Wright nor her parents objected to the advert appearing in a paper in Milton Keynes, venue for the matches, and then gave her blessing.

She said the sport wanted to show that "normal, sexy, boy-interested girls play hockey and you don't have to look like a horse".

Hockeysticks' image jollied up

Ex-wife faces jail for murder plot

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A DIVORCÉE faces jail for hiring a hitman to kill her ex-husband. Dawn Watson feared that her new extravagant life was at risk when he called in the Child Support Agency demanding more money for their children.

Her ex-husband, Philip Smith, had custody of their four children aged 8 to 16, while Watson, 41, had remarried, to hotelier Marc Watson, drove a top-of-the-range Mercedes and lived in a large country house, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Watson, of Pembroke Dock, made contact with Robert Rees, a "hitman", through business contacts. She told him: "I've got a new Mercedes and it's really cool. But he's trying to muck everything up. I want you to shoot him." But Rees told police about the meeting and they taped a telephone call in which Watson said:

"Just blow his head off."

She was found guilty of soliciting to murder. Her husband was cleared of the same charge. Sentencing was adjourned for pre-sentence reports. Mr Justice Tucker warned Watson: "I want it to be understood that it's clear in this matter that a custodial sentence must follow."

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Lennon brothers give peace no chance

Brothers vie for pop success

THE rivalry between John Lennon's two sons will break into open warfare in the record shops this month when half-brothers Julian and Sean release solo albums on the same day. *May 18 will herald* the most closely watched chart race since Blur beat Oasis to Number One when they both released records in August 1995.

Julian Lennon, a star with several hits to his name, has in the past suggested that a "camp" around his half-brother has been trying to undermine his career. Sean, 12 years his junior, an unknown force in music, has chosen to record his first album for a label run by the Beastie Boys, a band notorious for their tasteless stunts. The debate over which son has inherited the talent of their father, the former Beatle gunned down in New York in 1980, will be resolved by the British record-buying public.

So far, reviews of the two albums suggest the boys are neck-and-neck. *Q* says Julian's songwriting has come on, although his *Photograph Smile* is "almost relentless in its mid-paced rock balladry, which can be wearing".

Select says of Sean's *Into The Sun*: "The whole thing is drenched in lovey-doveyness, but the odd moment of slop seems to be in keeping with the author's slyly tongue-in-cheek intentions."

Julian was yesterday on a promotional tour of southeast

Record-buyers will have the chance to decide which son has inherited the talent, Dominic Kennedy reports



Asia. His spokeswoman said his album had always been scheduled for release on May 18. For the two records to come out on the same day was "very unusual in that they are two brothers".

Sean has had seven years since Julian's last album release to issue his own debut.

EMI, which is distributing Sean's record for the Grand Royal label, insists the clash of release dates is "pure coincidence". A spokesman said it was because Sean was available to promote the album in Britain only this week and was playing his first British gig this week in London's Camden Town.

Sean, who had been largely forgotten by the public, attracted worldwide headlines three weeks ago when he told *New Yorker* magazine that the United States Government had killed his father because he was a dangerous revolutionary.

At the same time, Julian was in Germany launching the international press and publicity campaign for his record. He believes the comment may have been timed by Sean's camp to distract the world's attention from the more-famous Lennon son's new music.

Julian says he was amazed that Sean was releasing an album at the same time. He says Sean's management group has visited all the people and companies that Julian has been working with. "And whatever I was doing, almost exactly, Sean would be doing the week before me," Julian told *The Scotsman*.

"I don't think it'll do him any good with the album, because what they should have learnt — not only from my experience but other people's — a name will only last so long, but if you haven't got the talent it'll fall through. You're not going to last."

Julian is the son of Lennon's first wife, Cynthia. He was born in Liverpool in March 1963, the month the band had their first Number One record, *Please Please Me*.

While Lennon was absent, it was left to Paul McCartney to teach Julian to play the guitar. McCartney wrote *Hey Jude* to comfort Julian when his parents were about to split.

Lennon moved to New York with his bride Yoko Ono and lavished attention on their baby Sean, writing the song *Beautiful Boy* for him in 1980. Yet he had been so worried about the reaction to the lullaby *Goodnight*, written for Julian in the 1960s, that he asked Ringo Starr to sing it on the *White Album*.

The first song on Julian's new album includes the line "Daddy's work is never done." The record is dedicated to Roberto Bassanini, Cynthia Lennon's late second husband. With a subtle use of punctuation, Julian hints that he regarded the Italian as his real dad, describing him as "my 'step'-father".

Julian's album sleeve also has a message to Cynthia: "Mum — I love you." There is no overt reference to his brother.



The two wives of John Lennon, Yoko and Cynthia, with Julian and Sean, celebrate a concert by Julian in New York

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Sean Lennon making his British debut at the Barfly, a room at the Falcon pub in Camden, on Thursday

Beautiful boy shows promise

David Sinclair on Sean Lennon's London debut at the Barfly

There can be few 22-year-old singers who have had to carry such a burden of both expectation and historical baggage as Sean Lennon, son of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. His best, indeed only, defence in the face of such pressure has always been to "act normal".

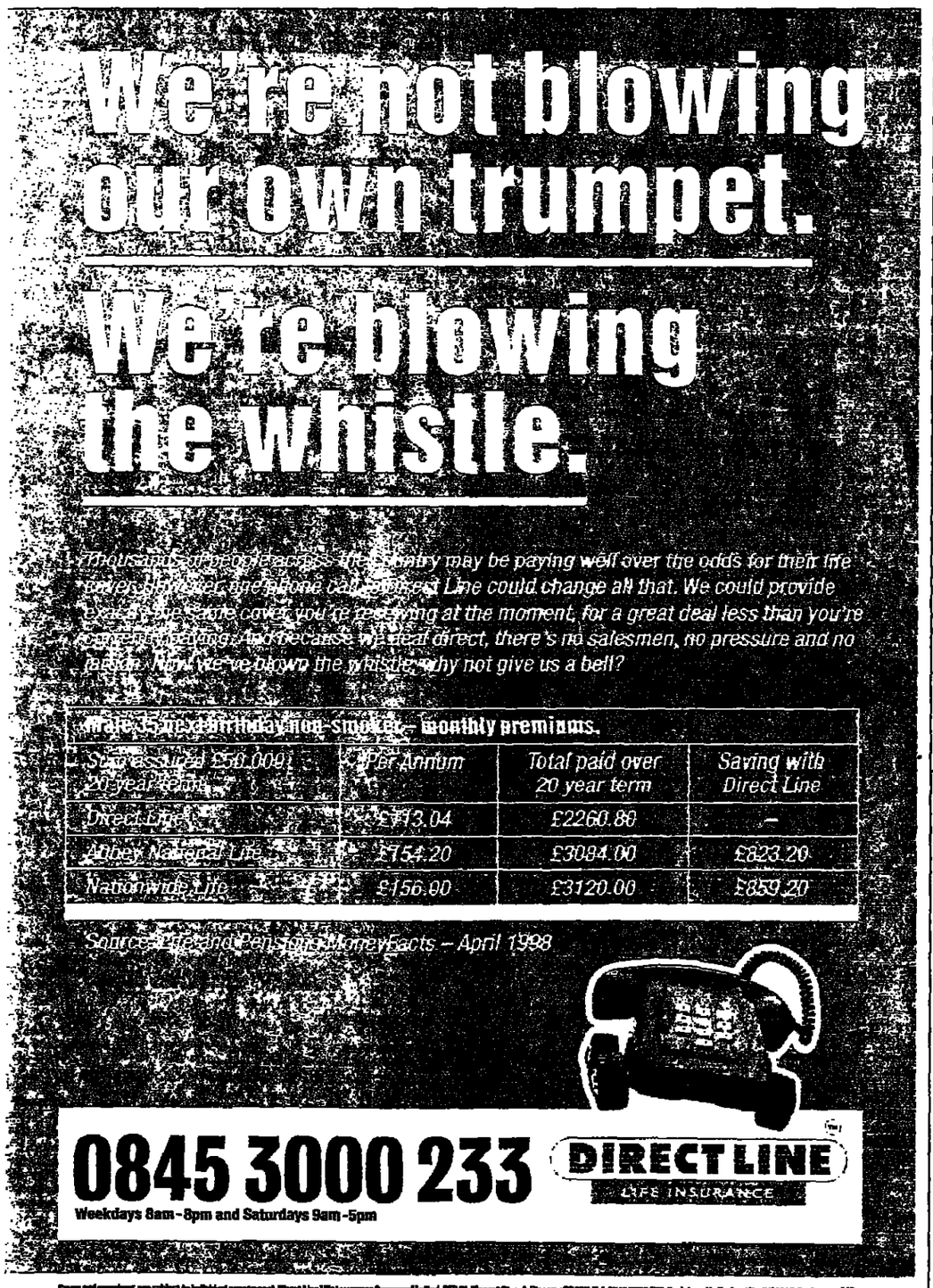
Thus his British live debut (and only his seventh gig in total), was a resolutely downbeat affair in the back room of a pub in Camden, North London, in front of 250 or so people so tightly jammed together that it was a struggle even to take off your jacket as the temperature rose. There was no fanfare, no gaudy lightshow and certainly no slick session musicians to bolster a performance that revealed Lennon Jr as an embryonic and at times enigmatic talent, who may well go on to great things if he is sufficiently strong-willed to continue developing at his own pace.

Looking remarkably like his parents — the thin nose and mouth of his father combining with his mother's Asiatic eyes — he began with the title track of his new album *Into The Sun* (to be released on May 18), a gentle bossa nova played at a volume that would have seemed modest by the standards of a home stereo system, let alone a rock'n'roll show. He was flanked by two Japanese women: the keyboard player Yuka Honda, whom he described as "the love of my life", and the drummer Miho Hatori, who provided cool, if somewhat approximate harmony vocals somewhat after the fashion of Astrud Gilberto. The group was completed by Timo Ellis (bass/vocals) and percussionist Duma Love who weighed in with a tongue-twisting rap during the encore of *One Night* while Lennon regaled the crowd with a human beatbox routine.

This contrast between traditional and modern idioms reflected a musical personality that was not so much split as riven by multiple fractures, often co-existing within the same song. *Mystery Juice*, which began as a lilting ballad, was suddenly enveloped by a blizzard of fuzz-box guitar heroics, and eventually wound up as a meandering pseudo-jazz-rock instrumental sequence. *Part One Of The Cowboy Trilogy* was a ramshackle hillbilly two-step. *Bathtub* was one of several medium-slow numbers with ostensibly pretty tunes knocked out of kilter by odd or unexpected chord changes.

Obviously Lennon has been greatly influenced by his parents, but the strongest clue to the provenance of his musical outlook came with the only cover version of the night, a ragged attempt at the Beach Boys' song *God Only Knows*, which he introduced with a story about meeting Brian Wilson that showed Lennon's deep admiration for that group's composer and mainstay.

There were intimations of genius at this intriguing and, at times enthralling gig, but the overall impression was of work still in progress. Let's hope Lennon is not distracted before he gets a chance to bring it all to proper fruition.



Beatles win with Harrison solo

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE singled out the evidence of George Harrison yesterday for helping him to decide that a CD produced from a 36-year-old tape of the Beatles should be banned from sale.

Mr Justice Neuberger gave a short ruling after a settlement of the four-day hearing in the High Court. Lingasong Music Ltd, which had claimed it had the rights to exploit the tape because John Lennon gave his permission in 1962 at the Star Club in Hamburg, agreed to abide by an injunction stopping the sales and hand over the original tape.



Harrison: judge said he was convincing

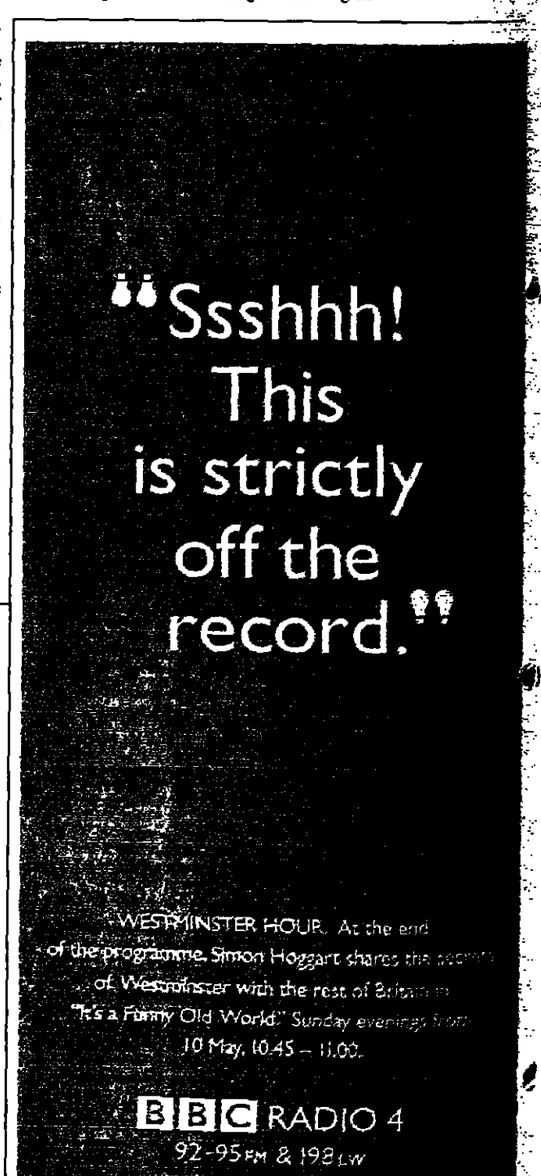
The Beatles had been appearing with an obscure band, King Size Taylor and The Dominoes, whose leader, Edward Taylor, used his own reel-to-reel machine to record the bands on stage. The judge said Lennon had not consented to the tape being exploited.

Mr Justice Neuberger accepted all the arguments put forward for the members of the Beatles "with particular reference to the evidence of George Harrison" who was "convincing" while Edward Taylor was "confused and inconsistent".

Harrison told the High Court on Wednesday that the recording was the "crummiest" ever made in the group's name: "One drunken person recording another bunch of drunks does not constitute business deals. The only person who allegedly heard anything about it is the one person who is dead."

The judge ordered that all copies of the recording be delivered to the Beatles' solicitors and that the group should be paid their legal costs and damages to be assessed at an inquiry. Mark Platts Mills, QC, representing the Beatles, had said there had been various attempts to exploit the tape by people associated with Lingasong, of Waltham Abbey, Essex. An album was released in 1977, and injunctions were refused by the High Court. The new action was brought under the 1989 Copyright Act — which gives more protection to artists and writers — by Harrison, Ringo Starr, Sir Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono, executrix of Lennon's will.

Nicholas Valner, of Freer Cholmeley Bischoff, the Beatles' solicitors, said: "This case shows that the Beatles are determined to lead the way in enforcing and protecting artists' rights."



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SHARP 21" TV with Fastext 51cm visible screen size. Model 51DT25. Was £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £50 — VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

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SANYO 25" TV with Fastext 59cm visible screen size. Model 5986. In-store Price £419.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £120 — VOUCHER PRICE £299.99

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SONY 25" NICAM Stereo TV 59cm visible screen size. Model KV25F3. Was £449.99. In-store Price £429.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £50 — VOUCHER PRICE £399.99

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GRUNDIG 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV 66cm visible screen size. Model 5770775. In-store Price £599.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £100 — VOUCHER PRICE £499.99

HITACHI 25" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext 52cm visible screen size. Model 2586. In-store Price £529.98. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £30 — VOUCHER PRICE £499.99

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JVC 25" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext 70cm visible screen size. Model 2502. Was £598.98. SAVE £20. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* *Model CA50 77R. Ask for details — FREE LCD TV — CURRYS PRICE £549.99

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MITSUBISHI 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV 66cm visible screen size. Model 28D7R. Was £579.99. SAVE £30. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* *Model CA50 77R — FREE LCD TV — CURRYS PRICE £649.99

SONY 25" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV 59cm visible screen size. Model 25F3. — CURRYS PRICE £649.99

PANASONIC 29" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV 68cm visible screen size. Model 29AD2DP. Was £799.99. In-store Price £779.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £100 — VOUCHER PRICE £699.99

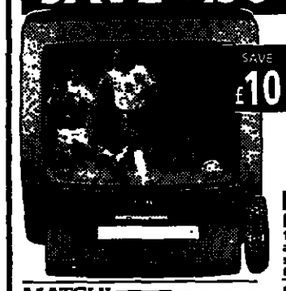
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PANASONIC 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV 66cm visible screen size. Model 28DPD3. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* *Model PANASONIC M850. Ask for details — FREE 14" TV — CURRYS PRICE £749.99

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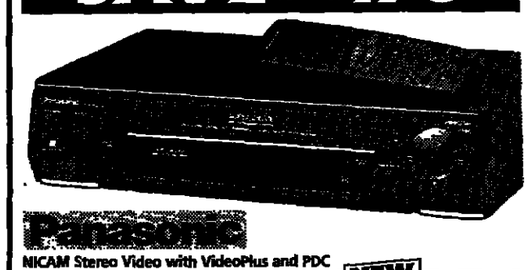
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MATSUI 14" Combined TV and Video 34cm visible screen size. Model TVR1625. Was £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £20 — VOUCHER PRICE £279.99

MATSUI 14" Combined TV and Video 34cm visible screen size. Model TVR1625. Was £299.99. — SAVE £50 — CURRYS PRICE £249.99

SONY 14" Combined TV with Fastext and Video ■ 34cm visible screen size. ■ VideoPlus. Model 14V5. — CURRYS PRICE £379.99

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Index search system. Model NVHD6208. Was £349.99. In-store Price £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — VOUCHER PRICE £279.99

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GRUNDIG 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model GV6401. Was £229.99. — SAVE £30 — CURRYS PRICE £199.99

SHARP 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VCMH575. In-store Price £279.99. — SAVE £70 — VOUCHER PRICE £209.99

HITACHI 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VTF650. Was £299.99. Was £279.99. In-store Price £259.99. — SAVE £50 — VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

SONY 4-Head Super-TriLogic NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Auto set-up. Model SLVE720. Was £299.99. In-store Price £279.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £30 — VOUCHER PRICE £269.99

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PANASONIC 21" TV/Video Package 21" TV with Fastext 51cm visible screen size. PLUS Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model 21ST/220. Was £499. Total Separate Selling Price £479.98. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £50 — PACKAGE PRICE £449

PANASONIC 25" TV/Video Package 25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext 59cm visible screen size. PLUS 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model 25MD3/WVSD620. Was £799. Total Separate Selling Price £729.98. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £100 — PACKAGE PRICE £699

SONY 29" TV/Video Package 29" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext 68cm visible screen size. PLUS 4-Head Super-TriLogic NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model KV29F1/SLVE720. Total Separate Selling Price £809.98. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £30 — PACKAGE PRICE £779

PHILIPS 28" TV/Video Package 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound plus NICAM Stereo Video 66cm visible screen size. Model 28PW6332/75. Total Separate Selling Price £1049.98. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £50 — PACKAGE PRICE £999

GRUNDIG 21" TV/Video Package 21" TV with Teletext 51cm visible screen size. PLUS Long Play Video with VideoPlus Model ST55730/GV6001. Total Separate Selling Price £389.98. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £30 — PACKAGE PRICE £359

SHARP 21" TV/Video Package 21" Remote Control TV with Fastext 51cm visible screen size. PLUS Long Play Video with VideoPlus Model 51DT25/VCM271. Total Separate Selling Price £399.98. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £20 — PACKAGE PRICE £379

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PHILIPS 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound 66cm visible screen size. Model 28PW6332C. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — CURRYS PRICE £799.99

SONY 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound 66cm visible screen size. Model KV28WS2. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — CURRYS PRICE £849

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JVC 32" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound 70cm visible screen size. Model 32WX2UK. Was £1349. SAVE £50. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* *Model JVC WHITE MEK. Ask for details — FREE 14" TV — CURRYS PRICE £1299

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MITSUBISHI 32" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound ■ Picture within picture. Model 32CW1RD. Was £1499. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £200 — CURRYS PRICE £1299

TOSHIBA 32" Widescreen TV with Digital Surround Sound 76cm visible screen size. Model 32MW70B. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — CURRYS PRICE £1599

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MATSUI 14" Remote Control Portable TV 34cm visible screen size. Model 1436. — CURRYS PRICE £109.99

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MATSUI 14" Teletext TV with Remote Control 34cm visible screen size. Model 14V1T. Was £139.99. — SAVE £20 — CURRYS PRICE £119.99

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GRUNDIG 14" Remote Control TV 34cm visible screen size. Model 37070/1. In-store Price £149.99. — SAVE £20 — VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

BUSH 14" Silver Remote Control Portable TV 34cm visible screen size. Model SILVER 1433. — CURRYS PRICE £139.99

PHILIPS 14" Remote Control TV ■ 34cm visible screen size. ■ SCART socket. Model 14PT1352. HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS — CURRYS PRICE £149.99

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PHILIPS 14" Portable TV with Teletext 34cm visible screen size. Model 14PT1552. Was £179.99. Was £169.99. HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS — SAVE £20 — CURRYS PRICE £159.99

NEW LOWER PRICE

GRUNDIG Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model FV200. Was £159.99. Was £149.99. — SAVE £20 — CURRYS PRICE £139.99

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SONY 4-Head Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC. Model SLV521. Was £299.99. Was £279.99. In-store Price £269.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £70 — VOUCHER PRICE £229.99

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MATSUI Long Play Video with Index Search ■ 1 month, 8 event timer. ■ Remote control. Model VX1105. — CURRYS PRICE £109.99

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MATSUI Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC On-screen programming. Model VP9405. Was £139.99. — SAVE £15 — CURRYS PRICE £124.99

MITSUBISHI Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model HS721. In-store Price £189.99. — SAVE £10 — CURRYS PRICE £179.99

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GRUNDIG Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model GV6001. Was £159.99. In-store Price £139.99. — SAVE £30 — VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

PANASONIC Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC ■ Index search system. ■ On-screen display. Model NVSD220. Was £229.99. — SAVE £30 — CURRYS PRICE £199.99

NEW LOWER PRICE

FERGUSON Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model FV200. Was £159.99. Was £149.99. — SAVE £20 — CURRYS PRICE £139.99

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SONY 4-Head Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC. Model SLV521. Was £299.99. Was £279.99. In-store Price £269.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* — SAVE £70 — VOUCHER PRICE £229.99

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This week

"There are more interesting things than sport on a Saturday afternoon. Murder, for instance."

THE SATURDAY PLAY continues with "The Black Spectacles". Sir Donald Sinden plays John Dickson Carr's sleuth, Dr Gideon Fell, in a thoroughly engrossing 'whodunit'. This afternoon, 3.02 – 4.00.

"Ssshhh! This is strictly off the record."

WESTMINSTER HOUR. At the end of the programme, Simon Hoggart shares the secrets of Westminster with the rest of Britain in "It's a Funny Old World." Sunday evenings from 10 May, 10.45 – 11.00.

"What kind of loving would you expect from Mr Bean?"

BOOK AT BEDTIME continues with Sean Bean reading "A Kind of Loving" - Stan Barstow's tale of love in Yorkshire. Weekday evenings from Monday 11 May, 10.45 – 11.00.

"Ever heard of a talk show host with more problems than her audience?"

THE EMERALD GREEN SHOW. Alcoholism. Adoption. Analysts. And that's before Emerald even goes to work. New comedy on Tuesday mornings from 12 May, 11.30 – 12.00.

"It used to be penniless students. Now it's skint parents."

THE LEARNING CURVE. Libby Purves describes the best university courses, campuses and value for money. Tuesday afternoon, 12 May, 4.02 – 4.30.

"The Moral Maze: Where there are at least three sides to every story."

THE MORAL MAZE. An ethical debate where nothing is black and white. Michael Buerk tries not to provide any answers. Wednesday evenings from 13 May, 8.02 – 8.45. Repeated Saturday evenings, 10.15.

"How interesting. Radio 4 talks about the weather."

STRANGE WEATHER DAYS. From summer snow to walls of water to freak tornadoes. You'll never complain about the weather again. Thursday mornings from 14 May, 9.30 – 9.45.

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Euro pop gets local accent



British stars are losing out to the Continent's native voices, says Dominic Kennedy

EUROPEAN pop fans are turning away from British and American stars in favour of rappers, trip-hoppers and boy bands performing in their native tongues. More than four out of ten CDs and tapes bought in Europe is now performed by a local artist, forcing the major London-based record companies to sign continental talent instead of merely exporting the latest American sounds.

Paul Russell, president of Sony Music Europe, said: "If you are an international record company, you have to be in local talent as a priority. People are making more and more deals with the local repertoire owners."

Figures from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry show that in the £6.5 billion continental market, the proportion of sales by homegrown artists has grown by 26 per cent in five years, and continental acts are breaking into global markets as never before.

In the UK, the top "Britpop" act The Verve saw their single *The Drugs Don't Work* outsold by Aqua's *Barbie Girl (Danish)*, the Cardigans' *Lovefool* (Swedish) and three songs by Sash!, a techno disc jockey from Nettetal, Germany.

Record company chiefs have become so excited by continental talent that the British trade's "bible", *Music Week*, has just launched a sister magazine *Fono* devoted to European pop. The eighth issue next week asks: "Is Norway the new repertoire powerhouse?" Norway, which scored *nul points* in the 1978 Eurovision Song Contest with *Mil Etter Mil* by Jahn Teigen, became the world's hottest source of new pop acts following a talent-spotting trip to Oslo by a middle-aged Briton who used to manage Yes.

Brian Lane, who also managed the Eighties stadium band Asia, has turned his back on British and American performers and is scoring Top 10 hits around the world with his portfolio of obscure Norwegian stars.

The Norwegians are the unsung heroes of pop. The lead singer of Aqua, Lene Nystrom, is from Toensberg, Norway, but Denmark claims the band as its own. Natalie Imbruglia's hit *Torn* was copied from a song by the Norwegian performer Trine Rein. Ace of Base, although Swedish, have a producer from Norway.

Mr Lane spotted the potential of Norway because Geoff Downes, who played keyboards in three of his bands — Yes, Asia and Buggles — was married to a Norwegian and brought tapes of the native pop music to Britain.

Mr Lane, in his 50s, had decided to retire when a friend invited him to Oslo to meet The Tuesdays, an all-female group. "After the Yes reunion tour in 1991-92, I had had enough. This attracted my curiosity. This band can really play as opposed to designer girl bands." Mr Lane launched them in America where their debut *It's Up To You* reached Number 55. They have charted in Japan. His biggest success is the singer-songwriter Espen Lind, whose single *When Susannah Cries* has reached the Top 10 in Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Austria. It is released in Britain on June 1.

> "It's nice to deal with musicians who don't take it that seriously"

Lind, 26, comes complete with designer stubble, and has been compared by the American music trade journal *Billboard* to George Michael. His live debut will be on an island in a fjord on midsummer's eve.

Mr Lane said: "Oslo isn't even the size of Croydon. Everybody in the music industry kow-tows to the Americans and the English and possibly the Swedes. I'm an old fart. I enjoy doing this. After dealing with the Yeses and the Asias of this world, it is nice to deal with people who don't take themselves that seriously; and I don't have to eat vegetarian food." His latest hopeful is Unni Wilhelmsen, a Norwegian Joni Mitchell.

Old European rivalries can mar a career. Lind's worst chart performance is in Sweden, where he reached only No 34. Due to the "love-hate" relationship between the neighbouring countries, Swedish radio neglected to air his song.

The rise of nationalism in continental pop has been chronicled by Emmanuel Legrand, editor of the trade magazine *Music & Media*, who believes closer European unity has encouraged each country to support its own music. "It seems that the more we integrate countries into Europe, the more cultural identities must also surface and be stronger," he said.

That nationalism is strongest in Germany, which has gone wild about *Schlager*, an ironic version of easy listening music, with an appeal to the young generation similar to that in Britain for Mike Flowers' Pops or Tom Jones.

Guildo Horn, the most famous exponent, will sing Germany's ridiculous Eurovision entry *Guildo Loves You* tonight. The trend is spreading. A Dutch variety, *Gabber*, with a techno beat, is now sweeping the Netherlands.

Portugal is producing its own boy bands, including the raunchy, bare-chested *Excesso*, launched as a cross between Take That and The Chippendales.

France, where radio has to play a quota of French-language music, is the European home of rap, mainly among the black immigrant communities around Marseilles and Paris. The hottest French rappers are NTM, whose last two initials stand for *Ta Mère* and whose whole name recalls the legend of Oedipus.

In a further move against Anglo-American dominance, songs in continental languages are crossing European borders. *Laura non c'è*, sung by Nek in Italian, is a hit in France and Germany.

The Netherlands has an equivalent of All Saints, Close II You. Stephen Simmonds is the first Swede to get a warm welcome from the international R&B Press. Neneh Cherry's Swedish stepbrother Eagle Eye Cherry is tipped for success. Mariah Carey's own label has signed the Italian disco diva Alexia.

Record companies are so impressed by the German enthusiasm for boy bands that, in a move recalling The Beatles' start in Hamburg, the American Backstreet Boys and N-Sync were launched in Germany before taking on the States.



Imaani, centre, the UK's Eurovision Song contestant

A short guide to the real points of song contest

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

TONIGHT Britain hosts the Eurovision Song Contest. Winners and losers know it is more than a matter of a few songs.

☐ When the United Kingdom experimented with telephone voting in last year's contest, British viewers gave Iceland, whose song was performed last, one of its highest marks. Experts believe thousands had come home from the pub, switched on the television and could remember only the final entry.

☐ *La La La*'s victory in 1968 sparked a trend for repetitive titles, but none has won since. Losers include *Didai Didai Dai*, *Olé Olé*, *Magic Oh Magic* and *Piano Piano*, and that was just in 1985.

☐ Nicole and Hugo, a husband and wife team, were the unluckiest entrants. The Belgian couple had to withdraw just before the 1971 contest when Nicole contracted jaundice. They returned in 1973, and came last.

☐ Some families find it easier to win a Nobel Prize than Eurovision. Count Maurice Maeterlinck won the Literature Nobel in 1911 but his Belgian grandson Frederic Etherlinck came 20th in Eurovision 1995. Max Bohn was the Physics laureate in 1954; granddaughter Olivia Newton John came fourth in Eurovision 1974.

☐ Only the Greek Cypriots choose the Cyprus entry. They have never given a point to Turkey.

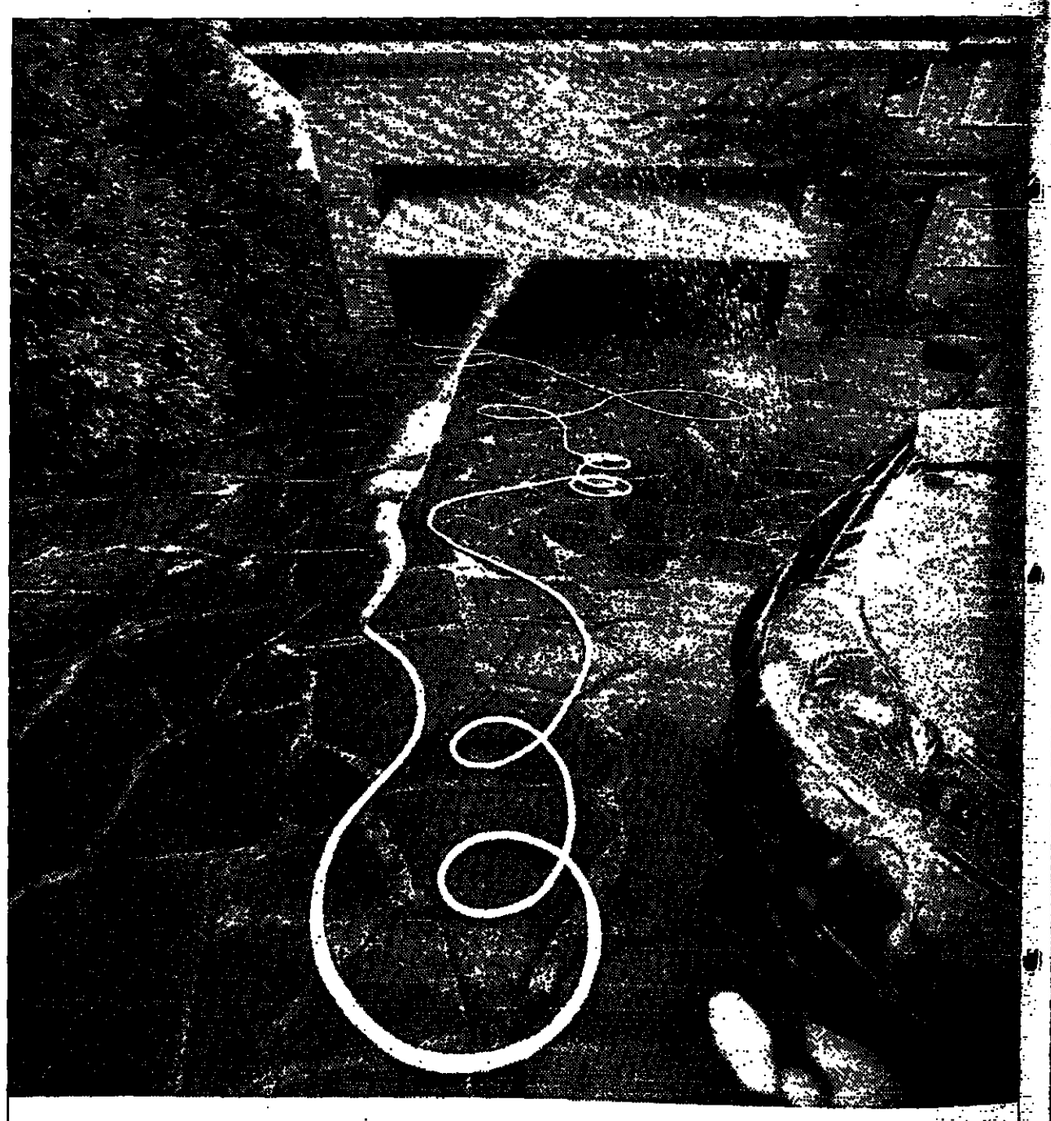
☐ Cliff Richard lost by one vote with *Congratulations* in 1968 and returned in 1973 to lose by six with *Power To All Our Friends*.

☐ The first contest, in 1956, began the long-running theme of local geography in song titles. Entries included *The Birds of Holland* and the more startling *The Drowned Men of the River Seine*.

☐ The Elgin marbles, EOKA, Gibraltar and cod are most likely to cost the UK victory. The countries least likely to vote for Britain are Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Iceland.

☐ The bloody religious war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is replayed every time the juries vote. The countries giving most points to Bosnia are Muslim Turkey, and Catholic Croatia. France and Malta. Orthodox Cyprus and Greece have never given them a point. *From* The Complete Eurovision Song Contest Companion *(Pavilion, £9.99)*

Metro, page 24
Vision, TV Guide



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Minister orders report on trouble at high-tech jail

Richard Ford reports on suicides and riot at first private prison to use smart cards

THE Prisons Minister has ordered a report on the first private jail to use swipe cards following a mini riot and two suicides in the six months since it opened.

Parc prison in South Wales was the first jail in the country to enable inmates to use smart cards to open doors and buy goods, enabling one officer to oversee 75 inmates.

However, three senior members of staff have departed from the prison since Christmas, amid mounting concern in the Prison Service at the way the jail is being run by Securicor Custodial Services. "I always thought they were putting far too much emphasis on their wonderful technology," one source said.

The latest trouble took place on Wednesday night, and resulted in officers from five state-run jails being drafted into the prison to end a "concerted act of indiscipline" by inmates. One prison officer described it as a mini riot.

The disturbance at the £80 million prison came after Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, held talks with senior staff at Securicor over the way the jail was being run. The number of disciplinary hearings is so high as a result of the disturbances that the Prison Service has sent one of its own governors to help.

Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, said that Mr Tilt had been in discussion with senior staff at Securicor, which built the prison, to "rectify weaknesses identified". Ms Quin added: "An action plan has been drawn up to strengthen the running of the prison." She said that, in view of the latest problem, she had asked Mr Tilt to provide her with a full report.

There were disturbances at the jail in December, February and April. In the last two, 43 staff from neighbouring state-run jails were summoned to help at a cost of £1,788 and £1,806 respectively.

Jim Heyes, the head of programmes, left at Christmas "for personal reasons"; Bernard Higgins, the first Director [governor] took time off sick and then left to work in another part of Securicor. His temporary replacement, Tony French, a former Prison Service governor, left the company, also for "personal reasons". The new Director, who took over two weeks ago, is Bob Dixon, the former governor of Bristol jail.

The jail's advanced technology means that a single officer can be at a desk controlling the remote locking of all cell doors and keep a watch on 75 prisoners in the wing. An intercom system allows officers to talk to each inmate in their cell, and in an emergency the central control room can open or close every individual cell door electronically.

The technology allows Parc to run with a staff of about 360, including those working in education, maintenance and other areas.

A spokeswoman for Securicor said that all new prisons faced difficulties in their first few months of operation. She said that the jail had had a bigger "attrition rate" among staff than the company had expected, but training courses for staff had now been put in place.

Deer-spotter father held at gunpoint by police

IT WAS a peaceful scene when a driver stopped his van by an Essex wood so his young son could look at grazing deer. David Foale used his work torch to pick out the animals for Steven, 11. Then they went home.

Two hours later, their home was surrounded by armed police and Mr Foale, 35, was arrested, handcuffed, taken to a police station and held for more than 12 hours.

When he was finally released without charge, an inspector apologised and said that a passer-by had reported seeing a .22 rifle being fired from his van. The mistake is believed to have been caused by his torch. Mr Foale, a delivery driver, has a 750,000 candle-power torch because much of his work is a night. He said: "It has got a stand like a photographer's tripod. I can only assume the man thought it was a gun."

Mr Foale, of Bicknacre, near Chelmsford, plans to sue for wrongful arrest and compensation for lost work. A spokesman for Essex Police said that under recent legislation police had to respond in cases of suspected illegal firearms: "Our complaints and discipline department will deal sympathetically with Mr Foale's request for an apology and compensation."



David Foale with his son Steven: armed police surrounded their house

Family win court case over their son's death

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE used their £2,000 savings to bring a successful private prosecution against a speeding taxi driver who struck their student son as he was crossing a road. He died later.

Despite repeated requests, the Crown Prosecution Service refused to take up the case against Tariq Mahmood, 30. This ruling was not accepted by Paul and Maureen Hynes, the victim's parents, of Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

Their son Shaun, 25, was hit as he crossed Castle Boulevard in Nottingham while out celebrating the end of his final accountancy exams at Nottingham Trent University last July.

Yesterday Mahmood, of Hyson Green, Nottingham, was fined £50 after being convicted by Nottingham magistrates of careless driving. He was also ordered to pay £200 costs.

After the case Mrs Hynes said: "We have proved our point. We have established that Shaun did not run recklessly across the road. It has cost us £2,000 in legal fees but it was worth it."

The taxi driver, a father of four, said: "I genuinely never saw the lad. He just ran out. I am very sorry for the family and I feel dreadful, but it was an accident."

British win top marks in poll of universities

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITISH universities are the best in Europe, according to the first international ranking of higher education for almost a decade. But Oxford and Cambridge were pipped by continental rivals in separate subject assessments.

Thousands of students and professors in 15 European countries contributed to the university rankings, published by the German news magazine *Der Spiegel*. The ten leading universities chosen to represent Britain were rated well ahead of the Dutch, who came in second place.

British universities also dominated separate rankings of economics, engineering, law and the native language. But the top positions eluded them, as the Dutch, Swiss and Finnish took the honours.

Cambridge enjoyed most success overall, tying with Oxford and Imperial College London for second place in engineering, and finishing second for law, third for English and seventh for economics. Only in economics, where Warwick was placed fourth, did another British university finish higher.

A sample of professors chose each country's representatives. As well as Oxford and Cambridge, the London School of Economics, London University's Imperial and University colleges, Edinburgh, Southampton, Warwick and York universities were included.

The last European ranking, produced by the French newspaper *Libération* in 1989, placed Oxford top and Cambridge second. The two ancient universities were among a handful to reach the top ten in all subjects of the latest survey.

The exercise comes as *The Times* prepares to publish its own wider-ranging rankings of British universities. Five days of information and guidance for prospective degree students begins on Monday. The series will include rankings of 23 subjects, as well as this year's overall league table of universities.

Railtrack plans to turn over a new leaf

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE latest weapon to clear leaves off railway lines was unveiled yesterday, but commuters will have to wait more than a year to see it in action. By then, it may also have a snappier name.

Railtrack, the track and signalling company, has ordered 25 of the £1 million track machines with the working title of Multi Purpose Vehicles. As well as removing leaves they will tackle ice, weeds and fire. They use high-pressure water jets to clear lines before applying a gel-like substance to stop wheels sliding. The water jets can also be used to tackle trackside fires.

The model displayed yesterday was only a prototype. The first production model will come into service in August next year, with the others introduced gradually up to the end of 2000. Before then, Railtrack is searching for more imaginative names. Already dismissed is "leaf buster" and Lola — standing for Leaves on Line Action.

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Charlieville cheered by another royal visitor

Once the object of derision, Prince's dream of Old England is a thriving reality, writes **Simon de Bruxelles**

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were shown the Prince of Wales's vision of a new Old England yesterday when they were given a guided tour of Poundbury, his once-derided model village.

Several hundred residents of the still tiny development on the edge of Dorchester gathered on its winding, car-free streets to cheer the royal visitors. They stood outside houses modelled on designs that would have been familiar to Thomas Hardy who immortalised the Dorset county homes as Casterbridge. The only visible difference was that in Hardy's day the houses would have been draughty and unheated. The Prince's version have double glazing, insulation and computer controlled central-heating.

Claire Curtis, 25, proudly showed the Queen the three-bedroom terrace Guinness Trust house she rents for £65 a week. "The Queen asked me if I liked living here and when I said yes she said 'It's very nice'," said Miss Curtis, who has two children, Calvin, nine, and Ebony, two.

Further down the street the Queen met Alexandra Thomas, wife of a naval commander, and admired her porticoed neo-classical mansion. "I told the Queen we'd moved here from naval married quarters in Weymouth and she was very interested," Mrs Thomas said.

The social and architectural mix is precisely the effect the Prince wanted to achieve when he first had the idea of developing Poundbury on Duchy of Cornwall land ten years ago. Yesterday's lightning tour was the first time that his parents had visited the suburb known to Dorchester's taxi-drivers as Charlieville. As the Prince was in London carrying out an investiture on his mother's behalf, he was unable to show off his handiwork himself.

Among those lining Brookhouse Street to greet the royal visitors were Leon and Rita Webb, who drove back from a holiday in Cornwall for the day to wave at the Queen.

Mrs Webb said: "I couldn't have the Queen walk past my house and not be here, even if it did mean leaving at six o'clock in the morning."

The Webbs chose their house in a pedestrianised side street because it meant they would not be disturbed by traffic. Instead they have found themselves gawped at by visitors.

"They just stand there and look through the living room window, brazen as anything," Mr Webb said. "It's a small price to pay for living here and if you live in a zoo, you can't complain if you're stared at."

The Webbs would have considered frosted glass, except it is banned from Poundbury, along with anything other than white external paint, garden trellis and trees of non-approved varieties. The Webbs support in principle the Prince's vision of a future less dependent on the car but admit they do not practise what he preaches. Mr Webb said: "Lack of parking is our only gripe. As a three car family we have to borrow someone else's space." Their son Russell, a 20-year-old car mechanic, complains that there is no one of his own age to talk to. "It's boring," he said. "There's nothing for young people to do. In fact there aren't any — as far as I know I am the only one." Like cars, which were banned from the development for the day, television aerials, satellite dishes and telephone wires are also kept discreetly out of sight.



As workmen brushed gravel across the deserted streets in advance of the visit, Poundbury looked like a film set for the latest Wessex novel to be turned into a big-budget costume drama.

After a briefing in the Duchy offices, the Queen and Duke were driven past Poundbury's landmarks, including a confectionary maker known as Charlie's Chocolate Factory. Eventually Poundbury will cover 400 acres and be home to 5,000 people. So far just 135 houses have been completed and all have been sold.

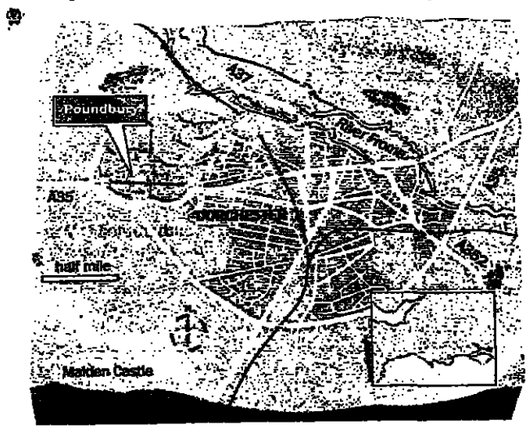
Critics who mocked Poundbury as Toytown and said it would never work are having to eat their words. The local newsagent said: "Every six months we get called by one of the Sunday papers asking us to do a knocking piece. Our trouble is that everyone who lives there loves it."

Carlton Stockley, a Dorchester estate agent, said: "I've just valued one three-bedroom house bought three years ago for £118,000 at £163,000. The prices have gone up as fast if not faster than elsewhere simply because of the quality of the development."

CHRIS HARRIS



The Queen is given a guided tour around Poundbury, Prince Charles's model village, on her visit to Dorset



Odd couple fight pylon plan for Yorkshire moors

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE and Arthur Scargill have become unlikely allies in a revolt against the construction of 50 miles of pylons through North Yorkshire.

Campaigners against the scheme, which will run through spectacular countryside close to the North York Moors National Park and through the Vale of York, claim it is economically and environmentally flawed.

They plan to fight the project, which has been approved by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, through a policy of non-cooperation with contractors, and constantly blocking access roads with tractors. Other schemes include digging wildlife ponds on all the 229 sites earmarked for giant pylons in an attempt to delay and frustrate the National Grid, the line's developers.

Mike O'Caroll, a mathematician and former Pro-Chancellor of Sunderland University, who is helping to galvanise opposition, said yesterday: "The scheme is out of step with the Government's own targets for energy efficiency and promoting Combined Heat and Power."

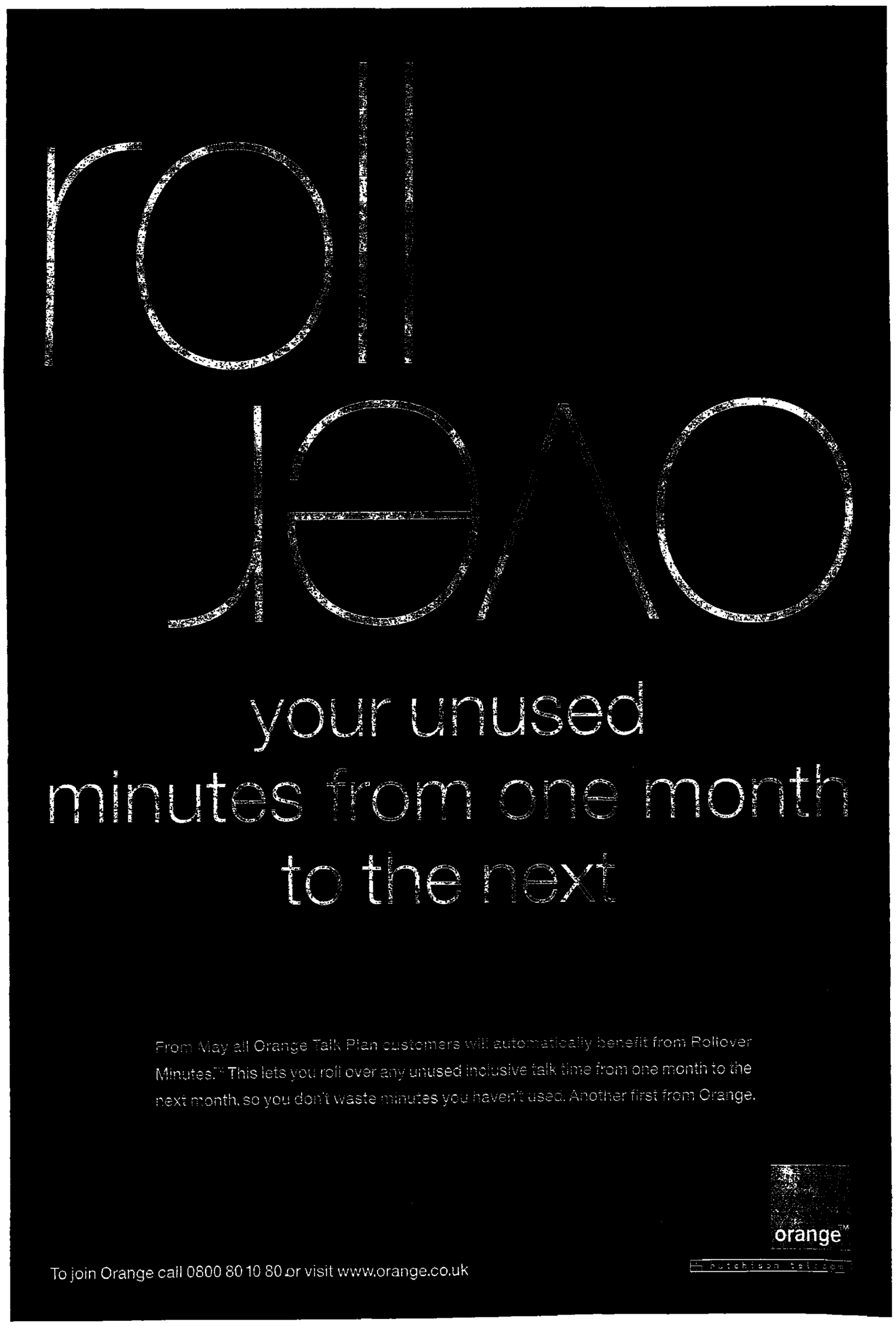
He said modern energy planning, aimed at reducing global warming pollution and energy costs, favoured building smaller, more energy efficient, CHP power stations closer to the communities that they would serve. But the newly approved scheme was almost East European in its concept, funnelling electricity from a gas-powered station on Teesside to the south of England. The line was likely to lead to big, inefficient, power stations in Scotland dispatching electricity south.

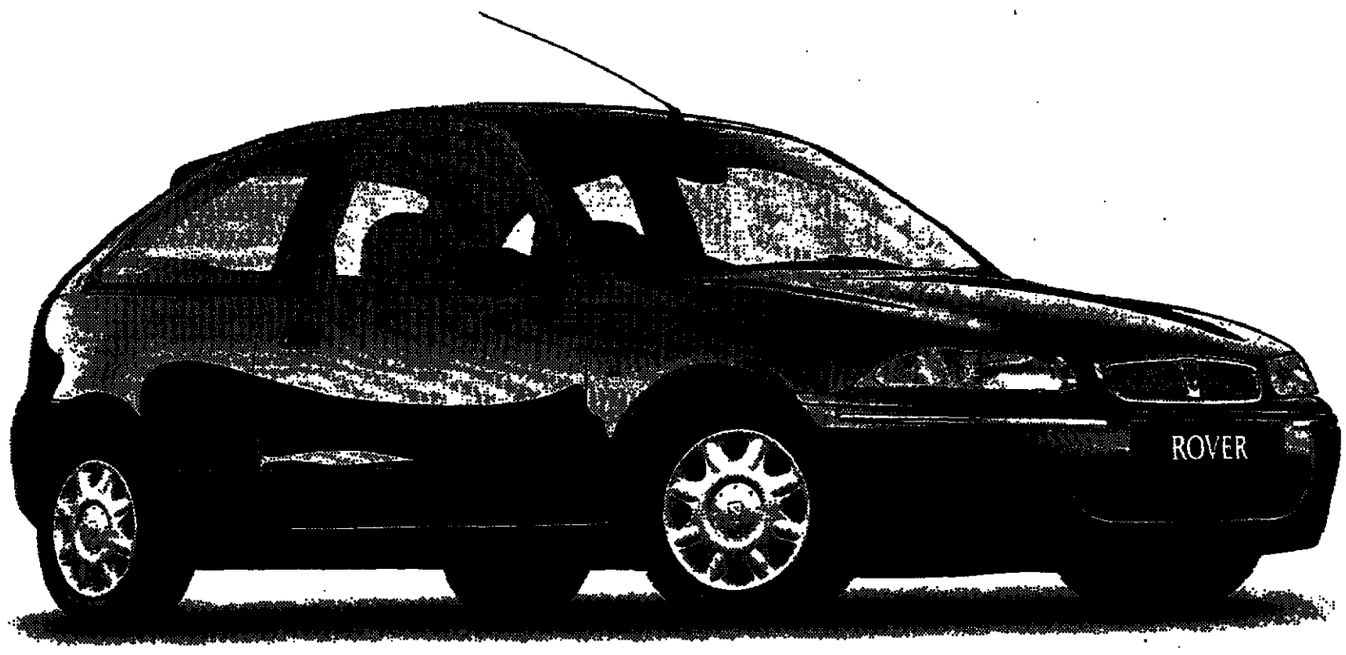
Professor O'Caroll, a leading member of Rural England Versus Overhead Line Transmission (REVOLT), said the new connection would aggravate uneconomic distortions in the electricity market and would blight the landscape. He said Mr Scargill, head of the National Union of Mineworkers, had sent a letter of support.

The scheme involves building pylons and overhead lines from Lackenby, east of Middlesbrough, to Picton and then from there to Shipton in North Yorkshire.

Local authorities, including North Yorkshire County Council, oppose the scheme and are considering legal action in the High Court. The protest has all-party support among local MPs, and the backing of the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England. Mr Hague's Richmond constituency is affected by the scheme, and he accused the Government of ignoring local people's views.

Campaigners are angry at the way Mrs Beckett approved the scheme. It was approved in a parliamentary reply in March, despite the pylon project having been subject to several public inquiries and adjournment debates in the House of Commons over recent years. John Battle, the Energy Minister, had also said in Opposition that Labour would scrap the plan if elected.





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WORLD IN BRIEF

US state reaches $6bn tobacco deal

St Paul: The state of Minnesota reached a tentative $6 billion (£3.7 billion) settlement of its lawsuit against tobacco companies yesterday just as jurors were scheduled to hear closing arguments in a 3½-month trial.

John Coale, a Washington lawyer who helped to negotiate a national settlement last summer, said details of the agreement would be announced later. Television and radio also reported a tentative settlement, saying the money was to be paid over 25 years. In St Paul, neither tobacco companies nor plaintiffs would confirm a settlement. Closing arguments were delayed without explanation after the judge announced an immediate recess. *(AP)*

Pearl find delights divers

Abu Dhabi: United Arab Emirates divers on a ten-day government-sponsored pearling expedition to revive pre-oil Beduin traditions found a large crystal-clear pearl worth more than $50,000 (£30,000) among many smaller ones, *al-Khaleej* newspaper reported. They stopped diving, and began singing and dancing. The pearl, more than half an inch across, was found near Dalma island. *(AFP)*

Judge rejects 'bitch' claim

New York: A woman who alleged she was called a "rich bitch" by a colleague in the presence of co-workers has lost a suit for defamation after a judge ruled that the word bitch, though unquestionably vulgar, "cannot objectively be proven true or false when applied to an individual" (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Gay Culverhouse, 50, is estimated to be worth $360 million (£225 million).

Clinton ally denies guilt



Washington: Webster Hubbell, left, disgraced former Justice Department official and friend of President Clinton, has pleaded not guilty to tax evasion and fraud charges (Tom Rhodes writes). His wife Suzanna and two Little Rock advisers also entered not-guilty pleas over tax charges brought by Kenneth Starr. The independent prosecutor wants Mr Hubbell to speak about Mr Clinton's alleged illegal financial dealings.

Zimbabwe clash over aid

Harare: A British diplomat was summoned by Zimbabwe's Foreign Ministry this week to explain why Clare Short's Department for International Development was "excluding" the Zimbabwean Government from talks on British aid strategies (Jan Raath writes). The Deputy High Commissioner, Ian Hay-Campbell, said Britain was consulting "interest groups" as well as governments.

Nigerian dissident seized

Lagos: A Nigerian opposition leader was arrested at Lagos airport after arriving back from a trip abroad, colleagues said. Olisa Agbakoba is president of the United Action for Democracy coalition, which groups 26 pro-democracy and human rights organisations. The group has organised a series of protests against the military junta of General Sani Abacha. *(AFP)*

British warships visit Aden

Aden: Four British warships docked at the Yemeni port city of Aden for the first time since the former British colony gained its independence in 1967. The British Consulate in Aden said the 175 sailors and crew were scheduled to visit historic sites and the British cemetery in the city during their 24-hour visit. A football match with a local team was also planned. *(Reuters)*

Coming home to roost

Pasadena: When a California couple returned from a few days away they walked into a scene straight out of Hitchcock's 1963 suspense movie *The Birds* — their two-storey house here had become home to more than 1,000 swifts. Soot-covered, the migratory birds, some of which had died, are thought to have taken refuge down a chimney because of stormy weather. *(Reuters)*

Students show contempt for Suharto

By David Watts in Jakarta and Our Foreign Staff



REUTERS

A student taunts riot police in Bandung with a dummy weapon yesterday during demonstrations calling for economic reform

INDONESIAN students defied calls by the army to end their protests with a mass demonstration yesterday outside the National Assembly that ended with 500 in detention after hours of confrontation.

Burning effigies of President Suharto, the students could not have sent a more pointed signal to the authorities as pressures grow for reform after a series of price rises. Only the previous day, General Wiranto, commander of the Indonesian armed forces, had appealed to students to end their protests and allow reforms to go ahead.

In the north Sumatra city of Medan, workers swept up debris in the wake of rioting, but students elsewhere joined in the increasingly strident protests in Solo, Padang, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Samarinda and Ujung Pandang.

Some of the worst unrest was in Solo in central Java, where at least 60 people were injured. Police fired teargas and rubber bullets to break up the protest by stone-throwing students and streams of ambulances ferried the wounded to hospitals. "We have about 60 injured students here, four of them seriously injured," said Basuki, a doctor at the emergency ward of the Muwardi state hospital.

Students openly shouted contempt for Suharto, Asia's longest-serving leader. "Suharto should be executed," one student shouted at the Teaching and Education Institute in Jakarta, before protesters burnt an effigy of the President.

More significant for President Suharto is the demand for a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly from the Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals Association, which is headed by B.J. Habibie, his Vice-President. The assembly normally meets every five years and last met in March.

There is immense significance in this demand, because all the principal Muslim organisations are now critical of the President, but also because the last time an emergency session was called was to unseat the President's predecessor, President Sukarno, in 1965. The crucial element in the removal of President Sukarno from office was the withdrawal of the army's support. In his statement this week, General Wiranto said that he understood the students' demands and disclosed that the army was working on its own proposals.

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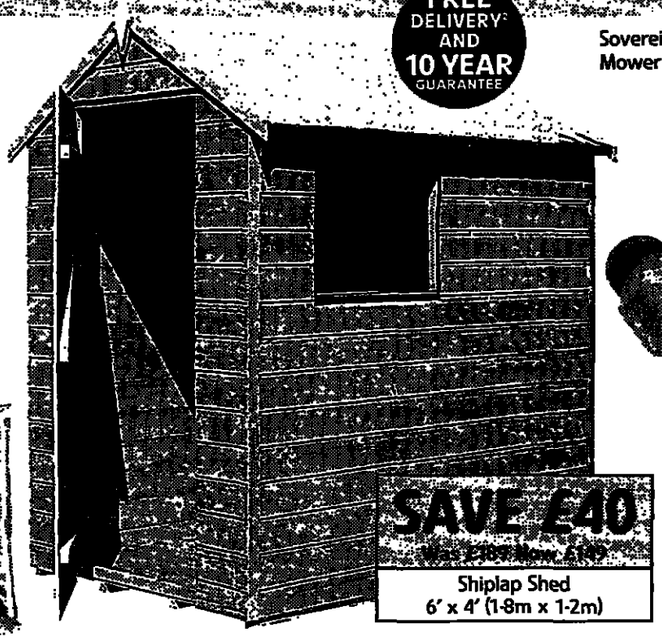
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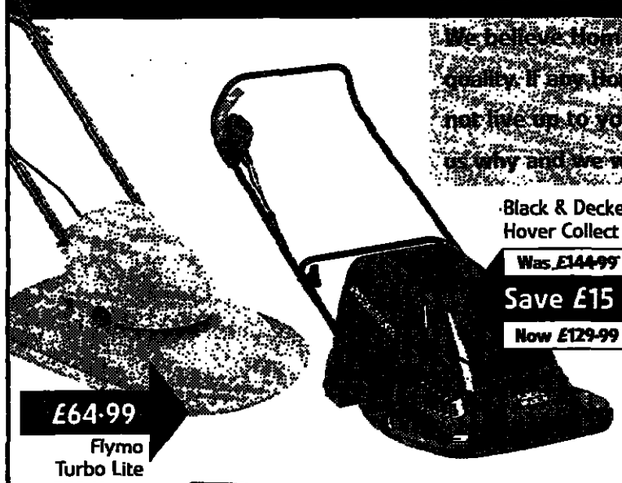
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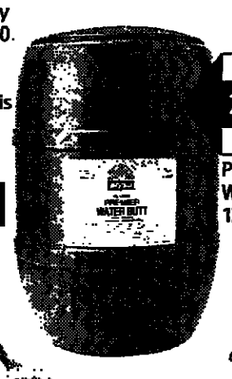
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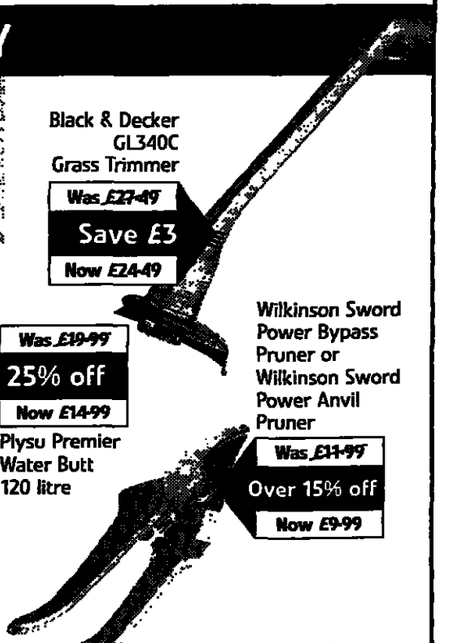
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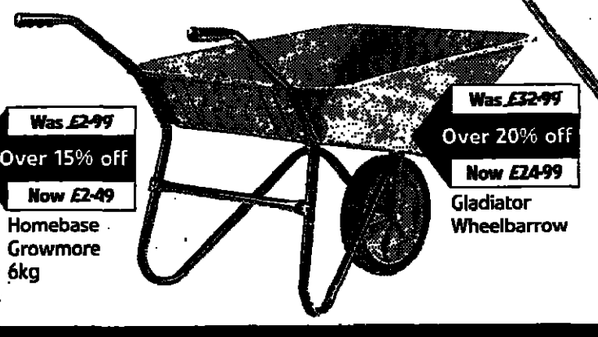
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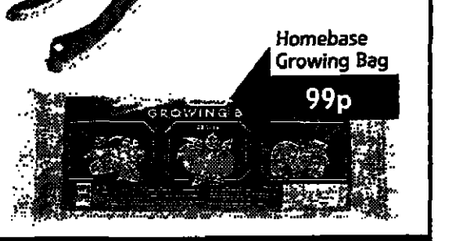
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Israel digs in heels on vital areas

Principle and security are at issue in West Bank, **Tim Hames** writes

THE Middle East peace process roadshow was in London last week. Next week the caravan will move to Washington. The real issues, however, are concerned with relatively small but significant areas of West Bank land.

To anyone outside the circles of Binyamin Netanyahu or Yassir Arafat, the current dispute over whether the next Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank should consist of 9 per cent, 13 per cent or some intermediate figure might seem farcical. Small numbers in this case conceal enormous issues. The argument between Israel and the Palestinian Authority consists of one major point of principle and four security concerns.

The issue of principle concerns the popular impression that the pullback procedure is a matter of bilateral consent. In fact, the Oslo Accords of 1994 and the Hebron Agreement of 1997 merely confirm that territorial redeployments of some sort will take place.

The Note for the Record that accompanied the Hebron Agreement stated: "Further redeployment phases are issues for implementation by Israel rather than issues for negotiation with the Palestinians." On that basis, Mr Netanyahu's 9 per cent scheme entirely fulfils his formal obligations.

At the moment 28 per cent of West Bank terrain and 97 per cent of Palestinians are under the administrative control of Mr Arafat. This land consists of dozens of small sections based on eight major Palestinian cities.

The next Israeli pullback will probably be the last before "final status" deliberations that are supposed to deal with all the most sensitive outstanding issues, including Israeli settlements and the status of Jerusalem. The Palestinians want, as far as possible, to enter those negotiations with their land consolidated into, at most, two blocks. That would allow them to abandon the final status talks and unilaterally declare their own state.

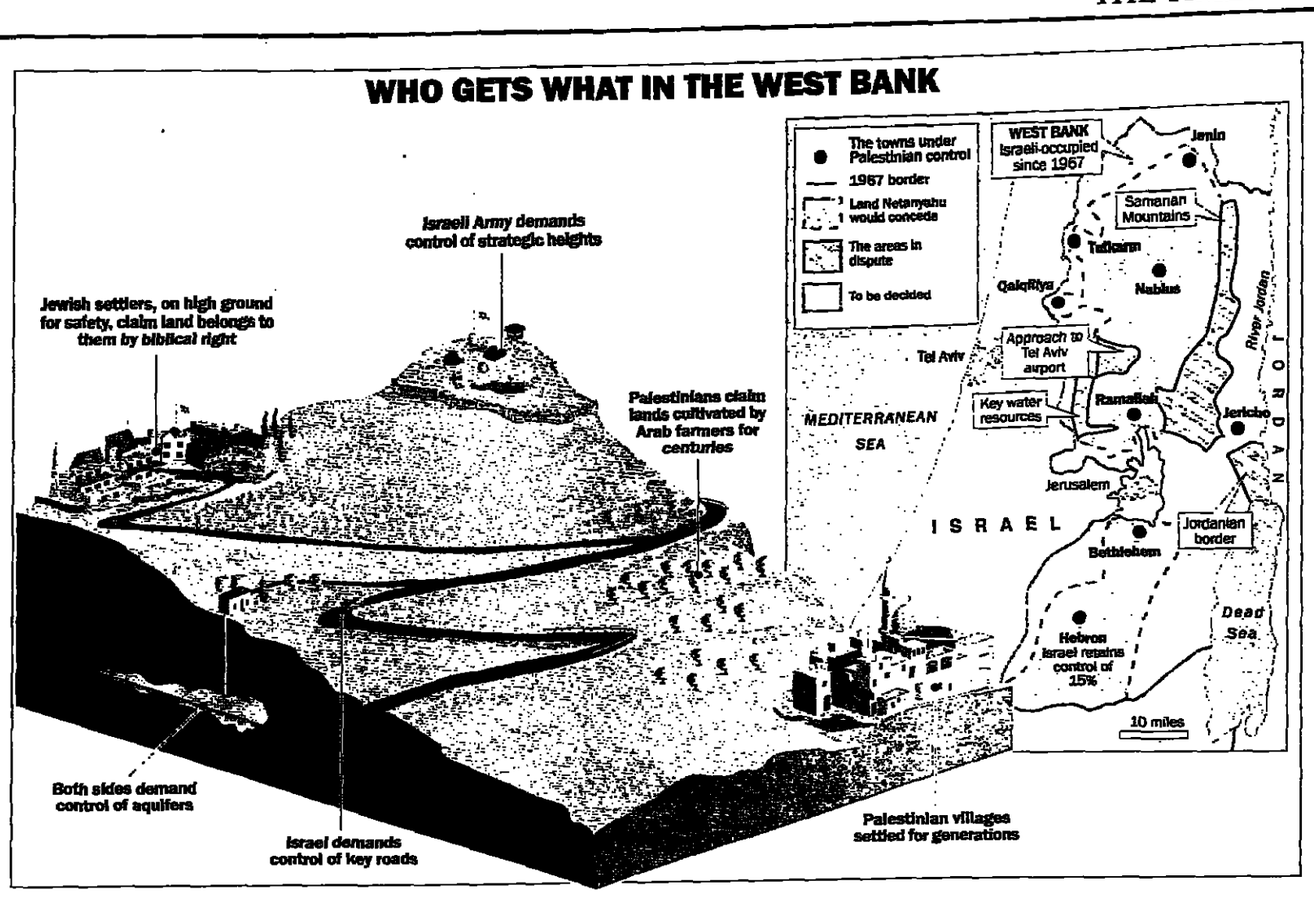
Mr Netanyahu is determined to close down that option. Senior Israeli sources have indicated to *The Times* that the American 13 per cent plan has created four areas of contention. These are: command over the Samarian mountains; control of the Yarkon-Taninim aquifer; authority over the eastern approach to Tel Aviv airport; and access to the Jordanian border.

The Samarian mountains are home to Israel's eastern early-warning stations and were the site on which Patriot missiles were based during the Gulf War. They were on alert only three months ago during the latest stand-off with Iraq's President Saddam Hussein.

The Yarkon-Taninim aquifer (a set of underground streams) provides about one quarter of Israel's water. In this part of the Middle East water is more important than oil. The eastern approach to Tel Aviv is also extremely contentious. The country has only one major international airport. The territory concerned overlooks it and would enable a terrorist organisation to hit the runways and terminals with shoulder-fired Strella or Stinger missiles.

Finally, the space between Jericho and the Jordanian border has long been contested. It contains the two most important bridges that link Jerusalem to Amman. These are the main means of communication for the rapidly increasing volume of trade between the two states and are highly prized in a military context.

It is very unlikely that Israel would agree to surrender sovereignty over such strategic territory. Even a compromise would require cast-iron assurances from the Palestinians that terrorism will be suppressed. As the PLO Covenant still calls for the destruction of Israel, Mr Netanyahu will require more than soothing words from Mr Arafat before shifting closer to the American formula.



Struggle by US to salvage blueprint

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA encountered new problems yesterday in its attempt to persuade Israel to agree to a 13 per cent withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and attend next Monday's proposed three-way Middle East peace summit in Washington.

Dennis Ross, President Clinton's special envoy, arrived in Israel yesterday on an eleventh-hour mission to find a formula to enable Israel to attend the meeting.

But senior Israeli officials again flatly turned down the US blueprint — which has already been approved by the Palestine Liberation Organisation — and suggested that the Israeli side was unlikely to meet Washington's deadline.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, held the first of a number of planned meetings with Mr Ross yesterday afternoon. Danny Naveh, the Cabinet Secretary, said that the Americans' proposal was "not acceptable ... for the very reason that it does not fall into line with the security needs of the state of Israel".

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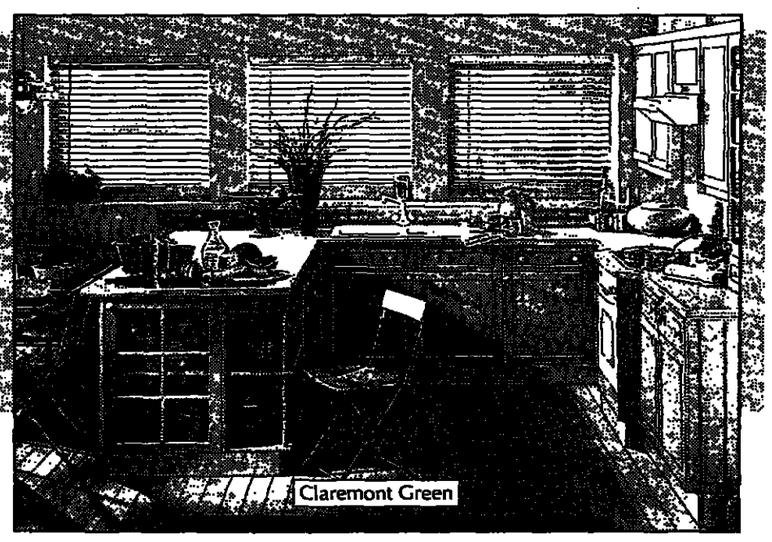
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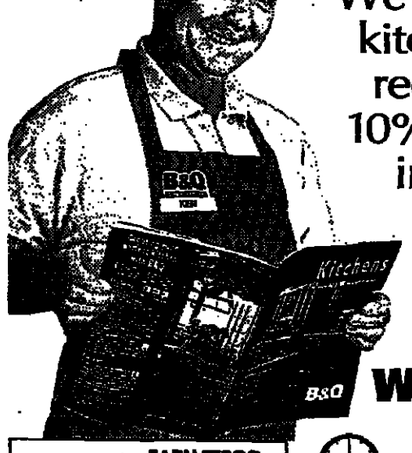
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Pakistan police fire on Christian mourners

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

POLICE in Pakistan yesterday opened fire on hundreds of Christian mourners outside a cathedral in the Punjab city of Faisalabad. Three people, including a young girl, were wounded.

The shooting started when a large crowd carrying the body of a Roman Catholic bishop pelted stones at the police and smashed vehicles. Bishop John Joseph, a religious rights campaigner, committed suicide on Wednesday to protest against the death penalty imposed on a Christian peasant under the nation's blasphemy law.

Police used teargas to disperse the crowd, who chanted anti-government slogans and demanded the abolition of Islamic laws which, they claim, are being used to persecute Christians and other religious minorities. People ran for cover in narrow streets and some took refuge inside the cathedral.

The body of Bishop Joseph, whose funeral will take place tomorrow, was placed in the cathedral. Mian Asif, the city police chief, said he had ordered his men to fire into the air to scare away the crowd. "But two policemen who were hit by stones from the crowd began firing straight into the people," he said.

Christian leaders, however, blamed the police for the violence. "The police attacked the crowd without any provocation," said Johnson Michael, a Christian member of the Punjab provincial assembly. He said that the police had tried to stop the procession carrying the bishop's body to the cathedral.

Troops and armoured cars were yesterday patrolling the streets as tensions grew. Before the clashes, more than 10,000 people had converged on Bishop Joseph's home village of Khushpur for a memorial service in the local church. From there, the crowd carried the bishop's coffin to Faisalabad, about 25 miles away.

Bishop Joseph, 65, who shot himself in front of a court building in the Punjab city of Sahiwal, took his life to protest against religious discrimination against Christians.

Last month a Pakistani court sentenced Ayub Massih top death for making blasphemous comments against the Prophet Muhammad. A Pakistani rights group said that the charges were fabricated. Massih remains in prison pending an appeal.

Raja Zafarul Haq, the Minister for Religious Affairs, said that the blasphemy law was not directed against any particular religion and that any person convicted under the law had the right to appeal.

However, the US State Department has repeatedly called on the Pakistani authorities to repeal the blasphemy law.

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Brush with passion

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



A FRENCH intellectual's film about the world's first recognised female painter has provoked a feminist furore in the New York art world.

Artemisia retells the tumultuous story of the early 17th-century Italian baroque painter, Artemisia Gentileschi, a follower of Caravaggio. Feminist historians regard her as the only woman to qualify for the title Old Master. The film portrays her as what one critic called a "Lolita with a paint brush", provoking calls for a boycott from the outraged women artists of our day. The daughter of a fresco painter, Gentileschi was raped at the age of 17 by an artist who had been hired by her father to give her drawing lessons. The case against Agostino Tassi went to court and became a cause célèbre in Rome. In recent years, feminist scholars have claimed Gentileschi as an exemplar of female victimhood. The first monograph about her, by Mary Garrard, confirmed this fashionable interpretation by reprinting an 80-page transcript of the rape trial.



Judith and Holofernes

Artemisia, written and directed by Agnes Merlet, stars the Italian actress Valentina Cervi in a deliberately revisionist account that has proved as controversial as any Oliver Stone movie. Rather than the prey of an older male artist, Gentileschi is portrayed as a sexually precocious teenager enjoying a forbidden love affair that her father has to cover up by lodging rape charges against his friend. Ms Merlet believes the trial to have been the real rape. The film is so steamy that it earned an adults-only rating in America, downgraded only when Cervi appealed directly to the ratings board that two sex scenes were essential.

Yesterday's New York opening of the film was celebrated with a party at the venerable Richard L. Feigen Gallery on the Upper East Side. Although Gentileschi left only 40 known works, including her vengeful *Judith Slaying Holofernes, 1613-14*, Mr Feigen assembled sufficient pieces to mount a small show exploring her relationship with both her father and her accused rapist. But the soirée was marred by feminists distributing fact sheets with the headline: "Now you've seen the film, meet the real Artemisia Gentileschi."

Miriam "Mimi" Schapiro, the septuagenarian women's libber considered the mother of American feminist art, sent a stinging chain-letter to other art-world figures. "The filmmakers have transformed Artemisia [into] a character beguiled by a painter, Agostino Tassi, who through their sexual union presumably unleashes her creativity," she protested. "In reality, he raped her and was brought to trial. Artemisia's active resistance to him during the rape ended in her knifing him." The film is due to be shown in Britain in July.

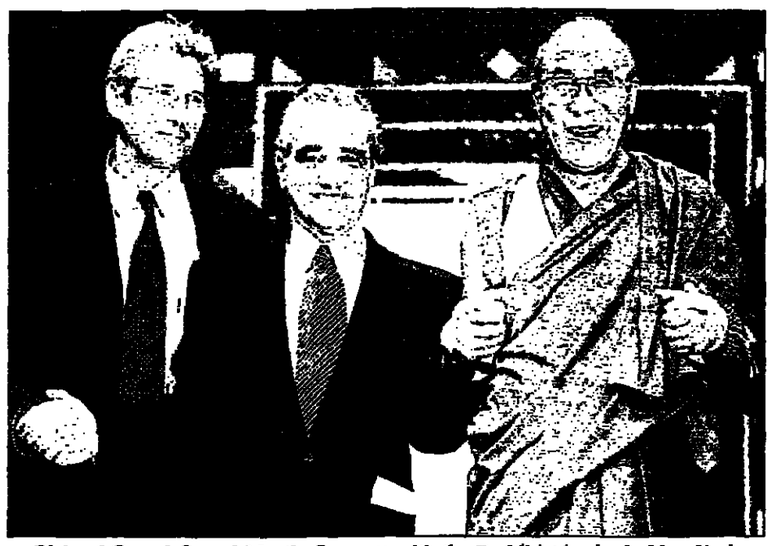


Valentina Cervi stars in the revisionist account of Gentileschi's life, which has angered feminists

You can wait months for a prime-time reservation at some New York hotspots, but there is a restaurant in unfashionable East Harlem where it is virtually impossible to get a table. At Rao's (pronounced RAY-oze), the ten tables are "owned" by regulars on particular nights of the week, to be traded like cattle futures. Frank Pelligrino, the nephew of the original owners, turns away so many customers that he's now nicknamed "Frankie No". The in-crowd includes Sidney Poitier, Sharon Stone, Mariah Carey and Woody Allen. For those who cannot get past the door, there's now *Rao's Cookbook* and a CD called *An Evening at Rao's*, featuring songs by Tony Bennett, one of the privileged customers.

Plays written by Englishmen about Irish people are earning plaudits in New York. Donald Lyons, The Wall Street Journal *critic, picks out Broadway productions of Martin McDonagh's* The Beauty Queen of Leenane *and* The Cripple of Inishmaan *and David Hare's* The Judas Kiss *for special praise.*

Language raven William Safire is asking why the "Man on the Street" is still called "the average Joe", or "Joe Schmo" or "G.I. Joe" or, President Clinton's favourite, "Joe Six-Pack". He notes that boys are now seldom named Joseph, and suggests "the average Michael" or "Brian Six-Pack" would be more appropriate.



Richard Gere, left, and Martin Scorcese with the Buddhist leader in New York

Dalai Lama visits Tibet chic shrine

"TIBET Chic" was given a gleaming new shrine in Manhattan this week, annointed by the Dalai Lama mid a crush of celebrities. A decade after Richard Gere and Uma Thurman's professor-father, Robert, founded Tibet House, the institution has become a physical entity with the opening of a Tibetan cultural embassy just off Union Square.

The Dalai Lama caught up with Hollywood's recent offerings on Tibet. He attended a special screening of Martin Scorcese's *Kundun* with the film-maker and Melissa Mathison, the scriptwriter and wife of Harrison Ford. And, by chance, *Seven Years in Tibet* was playing on his flight to New York. "I feel I was smarter than the young Tibetans who played me," the Buddhist leader said. "But they spoke better English."

His visit was disrupted, however, by some embarrassing feuding with a rival Buddhist faction with headquarters in Britain. The Shugden Coalition — representing the New Kadampa Tradition — picketed the Dalai Lama's public appearances. The movement's 15,000 members, mostly foreign converts, are irate about his decision, after consulting an oracle, to declare their deity, Dorje Shugden, a malevolent spirit.



Ellen kisses on Ellen

The British documentary-maker Fenton Bailey tells me that Ellen DeGeneres is "battered" by the cancellation of her television show. The gay sitcom star, whose ratings slumped after her eponymous TV character declared her lesbianism, is seeking consolation with her real-life lover, Anne Heche. "She believes that while she may have lost her show because of her actions, she has found personal happiness," he said.

The yin and yang of the sexual revolution were finally brought together at a New York awards ceremony honouring Gloria Steinem, feminist founder of *Ms* magazine, and Hugh Hefner, of *Playboy*. Ms Steinem, 62, once went undercover as a *Playboy* bunny for her exposé of Mr Hefner's soft-porn world. Her contempt for the unabashed male chauvinist was made clear when she refused to pose for a photograph with him.

Taken to the cleaners



THERE'S just no point in getting all hot and bothered by dry-cleaning bills in New York.

The upper-crust cleaners of the Upper East Side — Madame Paulette, Meurice Garment Care and Hallak — report that a well-heeled family will pay up to $250 (£150) a week to keep its wardrobe spotless. Anna Wintour, left, the British editor of *Vogue*, once got an Armani gown dry-cleaned for a discount $750 — half the price paid by a customer walking in off the street. Even so, some socialites prefer to send their togs out of town. Park Avenue matrons Nan Kempner, Susan Gutfreund and Anne Bass, for example, all ship their dirty laundry to Paris, where dry cleaning is considered an art form. Others use Los Angeles. If you have a $60,000 gown like Wintour's, you don't want it to come back a different colour.

Dole helped to test anti-impotence drug

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, the former Republican presidential candidate, has admitted being a guinea pig in tests for the new impotence pill Viagra after winning his battle against prostate cancer.

"I wish I had bought stock earlier," Mr Dole said. "It's a great drug. I'll be honest. I was in the protocol and participated in the programme."

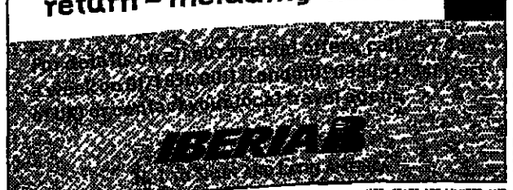
The Food and Drug Administration approved Viagra in March after tests on more than 3,000 men showed that it could resolve the impotence associated with diabetes, spinal cord injuries and prostate surgery.

Mr Dole, 74, who was a senator for Kansas and Republican Senate majority leader before running for the presidency in 1996, told Larry King, the US television host, that people needed to learn more about Viagra's effects.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991, he underwent surgery and has since appeared before Congress and on numerous television advertisements to promote its early detection and open discussion of prostate-related problems.

Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, the drug's manufacturer, is considering the development of a fast-acting wafer to replace the Viagra pill, which can take hours to take effect.

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Murder sheds light on spies in Vatican

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE penetration of the Vatican by Soviet-bloc spies has come to light through a Berlin newspaper claim that the murdered papal guard commander, Colonel Alois Estermann, was a Stasi informer.

The *Berliner Kurier* said yesterday that he approached the East German trade mission in Berne in 1979 and offered to supply intelligence to the communists. From May 1980 he was in the Vatican service, and at the same time was delivering information — sometimes in packets sent on the night train from Rome to Innsbruck — to Markus Wolf, the East German spymaster.

The newspaper said he was motivated by money; Vatican salaries are poor. The report was immediately dismissed by the chief Vatican spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, who said the "hypothesis is not even being taken into consideration".

A spokesman for the former Stasi archives would only confirm that the East Germans had an agent in the Vatican between 1981 and 1984. His codename was "Werder". Sources close to the archives say that Colonel Estermann's record matches the key dates in the Werder file, but emphasise that this is not proof of his treachery.

The source of the newspaper story may be Werder's case officer, who lives in Berlin. But this is also no guarantee of its veracity. Former Stasi officers have been known to sell their stories, exaggerate them or fantasise about their careers.

It is plain, though, that the Vatican became a melting pot for agents in the early 1980s. Alarmed by the accession of a Polish pontiff, even more alarmed by his support for the Solidarity trade union, the Warsaw Pact intelligence community targeted the Vatican. Hungarian, Czech, Lithuanian and, more tentatively, Polish priests were studied for their blackmail potential. Spymasters then encouraged likely candidates to seek a Vatican posting.

The Rome offices of Eastern European airlines were also regarded as key listening posts. Passenger lists yielded useful information about which Vatican employees were en route to the East, and some airline employees acted as links between Vatican informers and their spy centres. Bulgarians implicated in the plot to kill the Pope on May 13, 1981, were connected with the airline office in Rome.

The intensity of the spying suggests that all parts of the Vatican were interesting for Eastern intelligence services: the bank (known as the Institute for Religious Works), the various secretariats and the Swiss Guard.

The close co-operation between the CIA and the Vatican during the 1980s stirred the interest of the Soviet-bloc spy agencies. The Pope was given access to satellite information, electronic eavesdropping reports and summaries of policy discussions at the White House, the State Department and the CIA.

Between 1981 and 1988 General Vernon Walters, a former CIA deputy director, was received seven times by the Pope for personal briefings. Vatican officials received classified information from the United States on Poland, Lithuania, Central America, on terrorism, on Chinese military power, on American and Soviet nuclear weaponry, and even on the nuclear ambitions of Pakistan. This flow of information was naturally of some fascination to Moscow and its allies.



Suicide note blames 'them'

THE suicide note of the Swiss Guard accused of killing Colonel Alois Estermann, 44, and his Venezuelan wife Gladys, 49, contained the ambiguous remark that "they" had forced him to commit the murder (Richard Owen writes). The *Corriere della Sera* newspaper yesterday published the full suicide note of Vice-Corporal Cedric Tornay, 23, which was entrusted to colleagues two hours before the killings in the Vatican.

In the letter, addressed to his mother Huguette and written in French, the alleged murderer asked for her forgiveness, saying: "It was they who forced me to do what I am about to do. I have to render this service to the Corps and the Catholic Church." He said he had been persecuted day after day by Colonel Estermann, and had been denied a coveted medal due to all members of the Guard who complete three years' service. "They refused me the only thing I wanted," he wrote.



PAOLO COCCO / REUTERS

A villager walks through a devastated Sarno yesterday. More than 200 people are still missing in the area

Mud toll in Italy heads for 300

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE death toll in the mudslide disaster in southern Italy yesterday threatened to reach 300, but officials in Rome admitted that their calculations were unreliable.

By yesterday the official toll of those killed in the region of Campania had risen to 87, including 66 from the worst hit town of Sarno, in the province of Salerno. Two survivors, one a young boy, were pulled out alive from the rubble in Sarno yesterday, but more than 200 are still missing in the region.

The Government and local authorities have been accused of incompetence in the aftermath of the disaster, an impression heightened when US Marines from Nato bases near Naples were invited to join in the rescue operations.

However, Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, angrily rebuffed critics. It was premature to try to attribute blame for the tragedy while the urgent rescue operations to save human lives continued, he maintained. "Our priority now is the emergency," he said.

Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, was in the United States for talks with President Clinton when the disaster happened on Tuesday.

Thousands of rescue workers, soldiers and volunteers continued to dig through the rubble of buildings engulfed by the mud in the search for survivors, but were hampered by clouds of dust as the mud dried out with improving weather conditions.

Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, said that authorities would stop issuing estimates of the number of missing. The statement seemed likely to fuel the controversy over why the Government in Rome and the regional administration had not taken measures to prevent landslides after similar slides in the past.

At least 1,570 people are now estimated to have been made homeless by the disaster, triggered when days of torrential rain swept mud and topsoil off mountains throughout Campania to create fast-moving rivers of mud.

The mudslides destroyed houses, stripping buildings of their contents and burying whole families, and left streets and squares looking like wastelands littered with smashed wood, boulders and rubble.

One Italian newspaper and some television commentators called the disaster the "Pompeii of the year 2000", a reference to the volcanic eruption that left thousands of people buried by ash near Naples in AD79.

Yesterday morning some Sarno residents used ladders to enter the upper floors of their homes. They later left with possessions bundled in sheets.

Riviera killer suspect charged

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE man arrested on suspicion of being the Riviera serial killer was charged yesterday with the murder of a prostitute and the killing of two night-watchmen in March.

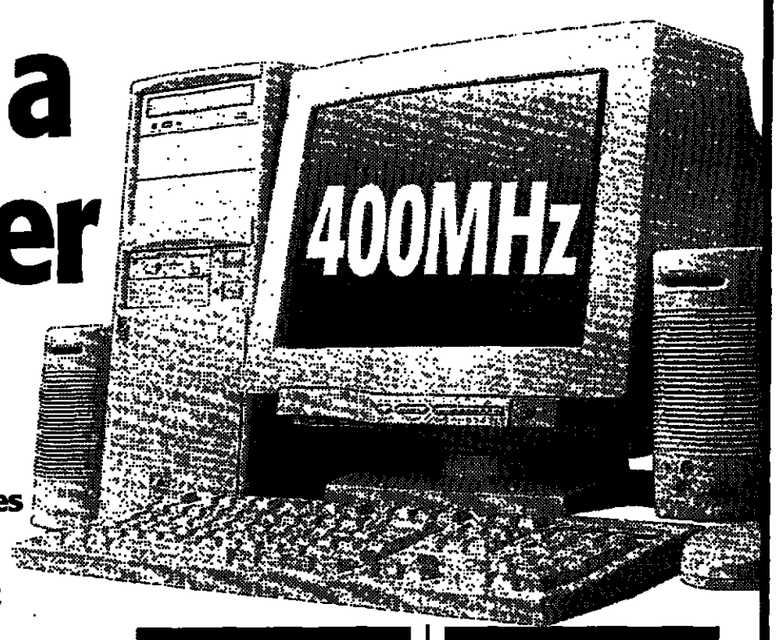
Police said DNA tests and witness evidence indicated that Donato Bilancia, 47, had killed Evelyn "Tessy" Esohe, a Nigerian prostitute, at Cogoleto on March 29. He had also shot dead two night-watchmen at Novi Ligure five days earlier after they intervened to protect a Venezuelan transvestite whom Signor Bilancia was "menacing".

Police have been hunting the killer of eight women — six of them prostitutes — for months. Two women were killed in the lavatories of trains on the Genoa-Ventimiglia line along the Ligurian coast. Police said Signor Bilancia, who is suspected of responsibility for all the murders, had evaded arrest until this week because he led a double life, posing as an elegant gentleman of private means by day and turning to gambling and prostitutes at night. The DNA tests were conducted on cigarette stubs and coffee cups while he was under surveillance this week.



Bilancia: police say he had a "double life"

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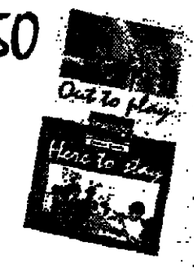
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Disgraced war hero gets back his honour

James Collis, stripped of his Afghan War VC for bigamy, lay forgotten in a pauper's grave, **Michael Evans** writes

Gunner James Collis, holder of the Victoria Cross and a veteran of the Second Afghan War of 1880, has lain for 80 years in an unmarked pauper's grave in South London, with no headstone to acknowledge his act of bravery in the service of his country. His story is remarkable. He is one of eight VCs whose medals were forfeited under the authority of the Royal Warrant because each subsequently committed a criminal offence. Gunner Collis was a bigamist who was sentenced to 18 months with hard labour.

Under the existing terms of the warrant of the Victoria Cross, the medal had to be forfeited in the event of any crime which attracted a sentence of more than six months. He was already suffering hard times and had pawned his medal for just eight shillings (40p). The Metropolitan Police who arrested him had to retrieve the VC from the pawnbrokers and the War Office paid the redemption fee.

Gunner Collis, war hero, faced disgrace. A special Royal Warrant was served on November 18, 1895, stripping him of the VC. On June 28, 1918, he died of a heart attack in a hospital in Battersea at the age of 62.

Now, after all these years, the grave of James Collis bears a headstone, resplendent with the carving of his Victoria Cross, following the detective work of a local historian, Tom Miles, and the agreement of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A brief ceremony will be held on May 22 at Wandsworth Council's Magdalen Road cemetery to mark the erection of the headstone.

Gunner Collis was born at Cambridge in April 19, 1856. He enlisted in the British Army in 1872 and first served in the 46th Regiment, later the 2nd Battalion, the Duke of



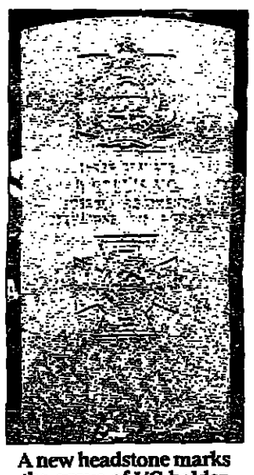
Cornwall's Light Infantry. He then transferred to the Royal Horse Artillery.

On July 28, 1880, during the Second Afghan War, he won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery with E Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery. The *London Gazette* on May 16, 1881, carried the following citation: "For conspicuous bravery during the retreat from Maiwand to Kandahar ... when the officer commanding the battery was endeavouring to bring up a limber [part of a gun carriage], with wounded men, under cross-fire, in running forward and drawing the enemy's fire on himself, thus taking off their attention from the limber." He was also awarded the Aghanistan Medal (with Kandahar Bar). He left the Army in 1881 and joined the Bombay Police. After a spell back in England, he re-enlisted and returned to India, although ill health forced him to leave on medical grounds.

Then, in 1895, it was discovered that although he had a wife in India, Adela Grace Collis, he had married again.

After his release from prison, Gunner Collis tried to redeem himself by working with the Scouts in Bury St Edmunds and, when the First World War broke out, he re-enlisted at the age of 58, joining the 11th Battalion The Suffolk Regiment, which was grateful for the services of an old soldier, disgraced or otherwise. He served with the regiment until August 1917, when he was again discharged on medical grounds. When he died, his coffin was draped with the Union Flag and borne on a gun carriage escorted by a military firing party. At the Wandsworth cemetery he was given full military honours and there was no mention of his crime or the forfeiture of the Victoria Cross.

His family, who regarded him as a black sheep, did not attend, even though he had three sons in the Army. Nor was there money for a headstone and he was buried in a mass grave for the poor.



A new headstone marks the grave of VC holder

Looking through the records, including the Royal Archives at Windsor, Mr Miles, who is committed to providing all VC holders with marked graves, discovered that two years after his death Gunner Collis's sister, Hannah Haylock, petitioned the War Office on behalf of the family to ask if the forfeiture of the VC could be cancelled.

The ultimate decision lay in the hands of King George V, but he was obliged to take the advice of the Secretary of State for War, who at that time was Winston Churchill. Churchill turned down the petition, even though surviving records show that the King's private secretary, Lord Stamfordham, had written to the War Office, saying: "The King feels strongly that no matter the crime committed by anyone upon whom the VC has been conferred, the decoration ought not to be forfeited." George V also gave permission for the Royal Artillery to include the name of Gunner Collis in a Victoria Cross memorial for the regiment's VC holders. In 1920 Churchill approved amendments to the Royal Warrant for the Victoria Cross, specifying that only "treason, cowardice, felony or any infamous crime" should lead to forfeiture of the award. But the amendments were not made retrospective. It was not until 1953 that the War Office issued a list of VCs, which included Gunner Collis and the seven other forfeitures.

His VC and the Afghan Medal were in 1979 sold at Sotheby's by the son of a Colonel Oakley, fetching £5,800. A search of the records then revealed that the medals had first been sold in 1911 for £52. The two medals were sold again at Sotheby's for £7,200 in November 1980.

ASHLEY COOMBES



Tom Miles, who wants to provide all VC holders with marked graves, pays his repects to James Collis VC

Pocket watch clue solved mystery of Spitfire pilot

A crusade to identify a war grave has paid off, writes **Peter Birkett**

THE BODY of a wartime RAF Spitfire pilot which has lain in an unmarked grave for the past 58 years has been honoured with a headstone.

The move follows a crusade by a 64-year-old woman who has spent the past eight years tending the grave in the churchyard at Staplehurst, Kent, and trying to prove that it was rightfully that of Flight Lieutenant Frederick Rushmer, who was shot down in the Battle of Britain.

"I am absolutely delighted," Jean Liddicoat said yesterday. "All the years of writing letters and gathering evidence have finally paid off."

Flight Lieutenant Rushmer, who served with 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, died on September 5, 1940, during a dogfight over the Weald of Kent. His aircraft crashed into a hop garden at Buckmans Green Farm, Smarden, and he was buried at Staplehurst a few days later.

Because two Spitfire pilots were unaccounted for that day — the other was Squadron Leader Robin Hood — and because no dog tag was found, the authorities ruled that the gravestone should be inscribed: "An Airman of the 1939-1945 War. Royal Air Force. September 1940 — Known unto God."

However, eight years ago Mrs Liddicoat moved to a cottage adjoining the church and soon afterwards found the grave, overgrown and forgotten. She started tending it regularly and became fascinated by the mystery.

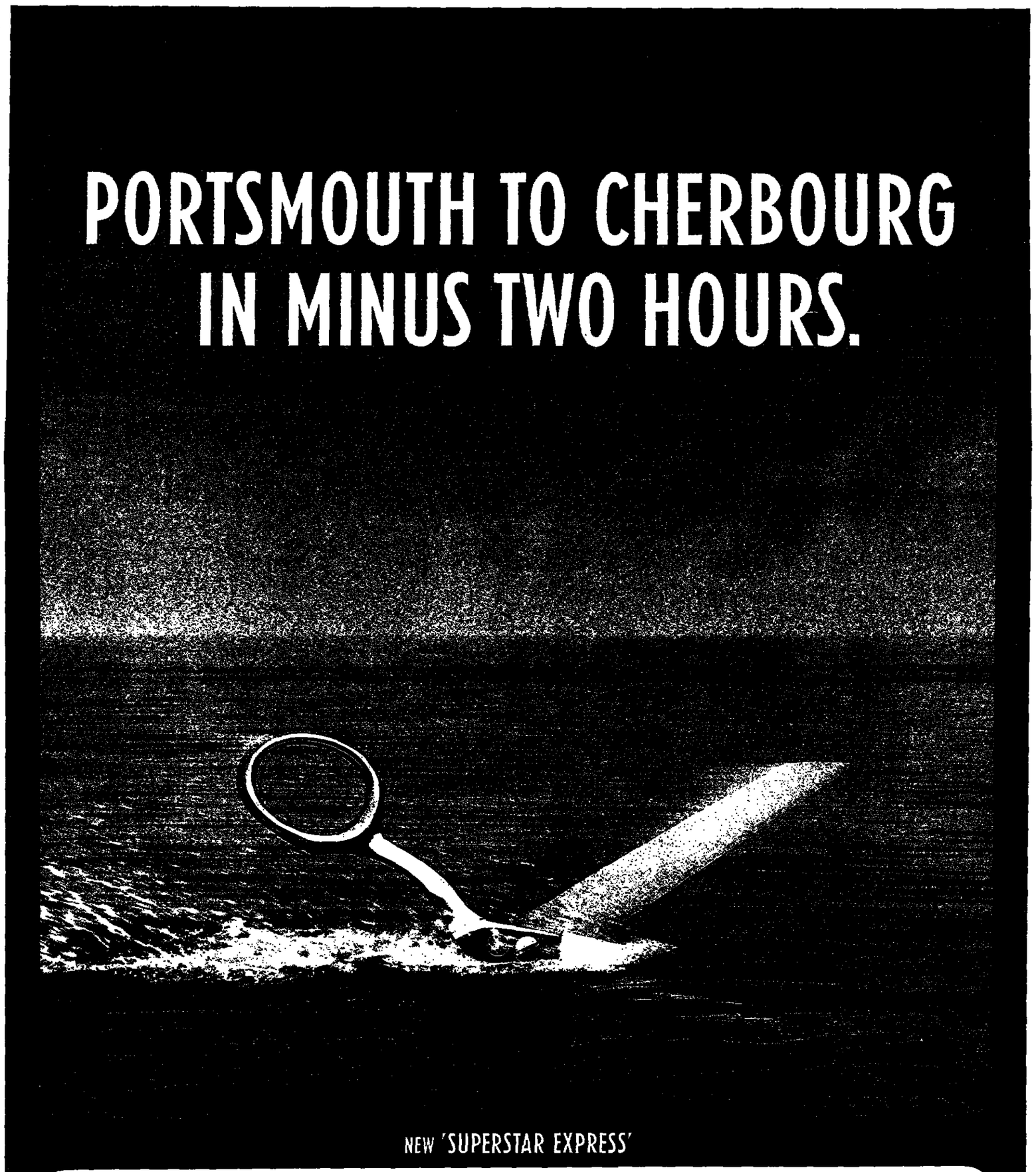
With the help of a neighbour, Ted Sergison, she found that aviation archaeologists had excavated the Smarden crash site in 1970 and had found a half-hunter pocket watch with its hands stopped at 10.10am. Their research of squadron records showed that in all probability the grave was that of Frederick "Rusty" Rushmer.

"So I decided to try to find the family and I began looking up Rushmers all over Britain in telephone books," said Mrs Liddicoat. She tracked down a Norwich solicitor, John Rushmer, the pilot's cousin, who put her in touch with Frederick Rushmer's two surviving sisters, Agnes Rushmer, who died last year at 93, and Mrs Margaret Farrant, 91, who lives in Suffolk.

Mrs Farrant remembered the half-hunter, and Mrs Liddicoat and Mr Sergison stepped up their campaign to persuade the Ministry of Defence to acknowledge the grave as Flight Lieutenant Rushmer's.

They argued that as official records show that the pilot crashed between 9.34 am and 10.34 am — timings borne out by the watch — and that Squadron Leader Hood was believed to have crashed nearer 3pm, the Staplehurst grave had to be that of Flight Lieutenant Rushmer. Late last year the Commonwealth War Graves Commission authorised that the headstone be changed. But it was only in recent days that, quietly, the work was done.

"I was overjoyed," Mrs Liddicoat said. "I went out to see to the grave and I couldn't believe it. There, after all these years, was my Freddie's name where it always should have been."



Battle of cosmic disasters

Steven Spielberg and Disney are on a collision course, reports Giles Whittell

STARTING last night in more than 3,000 cinemas, giant comets began hurtling into the North Atlantic and sending ashore 350ft tidal waves capable of crushing skyscrapers like matchsticks. In less than two months it will happen again, but with an asteroid the size of Texas and a final outcome known only to a select few at the Walt Disney Company.

The battle of the cosmic disaster movies has hit America's multiplexes. It pits fact against fiction and Disney against Dreamworks, and serves up the memorable image of Vanessa Redgrave as a wronged mother who kills herself as the world ends. It has earned the derision of East Coast commentators for Hollywood's "technological pornography".

Deep Impact, released this weekend by Dreamworks, is the first full-scale "event" film from the studio founded four years ago by Steven Spielberg. Considered vital to the company's future, it boasts a star cast and dazzling computer graphics, but has received only lukewarm reviews.

The film includes spectacular footage of a fiery comet streaking towards an "Extinction Level Event" on Earth. Seconds later downtown Manhattan is dwarfed by a curling wall of water. But between scenes of doom and panic, *Deep Impact* is "far from thrilling", *Daily Variety* declared, blaming "a largely dull assortment of troubled human beings", including Robert Duvall and Morgan Freeman. It made an exception only for the "classy" Ms Redgrave.

Most galling for Dreamworks is the panting coverage already being lavished on Disney's *Armaggedon*, starring Bruce Willis — "the only asteroid movie you'll ever need", as *Newsweek* gushed weeks before its July 1 release. Like *Deep Impact*, *Armaggedon* features a manned mission to blow up the coming menace. Unlike the one in *Deep Impact*, this works.

Expecting a blockbuster, cinema chains are planning to sell tickets in advance and withdraw *Deep Impact* to make way for it. Both films received an uncanny blast of free publicity in March, when US scientists said an asteroid as wide as Indiana was heading for Earth with an estimated arrival time of 2028. A day later the scientists revised their forecast, saying the rock will miss by 500,000 miles.





Earth's last reel: In *Deep Impact*, a comet threatens world's end, above, and astronauts, right, try to divert it with explosives; a similar crisis scenario is featured in *Armageddon*, with Bruce Willis, far right

The prospect of two almost identical disaster films is hardly new. In 1996 *Mars Attacks* told exactly the same story as *Independence Day*, but with its tongue in its cheek. Last year *Dante's Peak* and *Volcano*, both about volcanoes, threatened to cancel each other out at the box office.

The duel of the asteroids is different, according to Peter Bart, editor of *Daily Variety*. "These films are more expensive and more important to the studios. There's far more at stake."

The showdown mirrors a bitter rivalry between Disney and Dreamworks, created when Jeffrey Katzenberg, one of Spielberg's cofounders, left the older studio in disgust after not being promoted. Four years on, Dreamworks is in dire need of a hit after the failure of *Amistad*, Spielberg's slavery epic, at the box office and the Oscars.

As Hollywood aims its meteors at New York, New York has struck back. Not only have the two studios come up with just one solid action film idea between them, they have insulted their audiences with saturation special effects at the expense of plot and dialogue, according to Alan Caruba, founder and sole member of the Boring Institute, which exists to debunk Tinseltown.

"I can appreciate a good special effect if it's integral to the film," Mr Caruba, a former publicist, told *The New York Times*. "But this is an era of Hollywood that assumes the audience has the attention span of fungus." And Neal Gabler, the author of numerous books on Hollywood, went further. "The analogy I would use is drug addiction," he said. "There's always a new drug that comes along because the old high isn't enough any more. Special effects work the same way."

It will console neither pundit that both asteroid films are expected to be trounced at the box office by a remake of *Godzilla* — nor that *Godzilla*'s producers wanted to make an asteroid film at first, but judged the market too crowded.



PARALLEL WORLDS

PLOT
Deep Impact: A television reporter discovers that the United States has known for two years that a mighty Earth-bound comet threatens an "extinction level event". Astronauts with explosives split it in two but fail to divert it, prompting mass analysis of the question of what to do when the world is about to end.
Armageddon: Astronauts with explosives nudge asteroid the size of Texas off collision course with Earth.

Stars
Deep Impact: Robert Duvall, Morgan Freeman, Vanessa Redgrave.
Armageddon: Bruce Willis

Casualties
Deep Impact: New York City
Armaggedon: New York City

Studios
Deep Impact: Dreamworks (in conjuction with Paramount)
Armaggedon: Touchstone Pictures/The Walt Disney Company

Estimated budgets
Deep Impact: $80-100 million
Armaggedon: $110-160 million

Release dates
Deep Impact: May 9
Armaggedon: July 1

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Clean-up w... at risk. Giles ...



Annan: blamed lack of international will

Rwandans make up with UN

Kigali: Rwandan leaders appeared to be prepared yesterday to continue their relations with the United Nations despite a rebuke to Kofi Annan, its Secretary-General, over the UN's failure to halt the 1994 genocide.

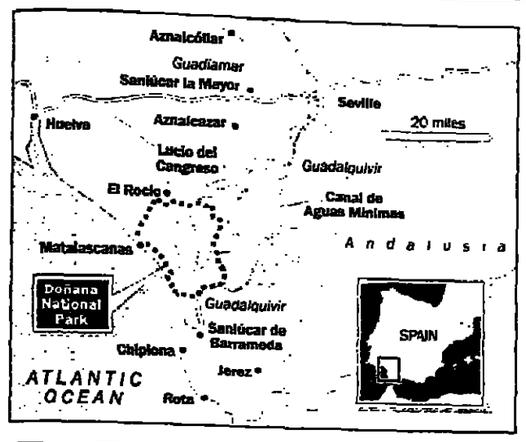
A day after they spurned a reception in his honour, President Bizimungu and the Vice-President, Paul Kagame, met Mr Annan, who praised the Rwandans for their determination to push ahead with reconciliation.

Mr Annan blamed the lack of international will for the failure to prevent the slaughter of 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. He dismissed criticism that he ignored a warning cable from a UN commander three months before genocide began.

He and Mr Bizimungu said they were looking forward to a widened co-operation in rebuilding Rwanda. (AP)

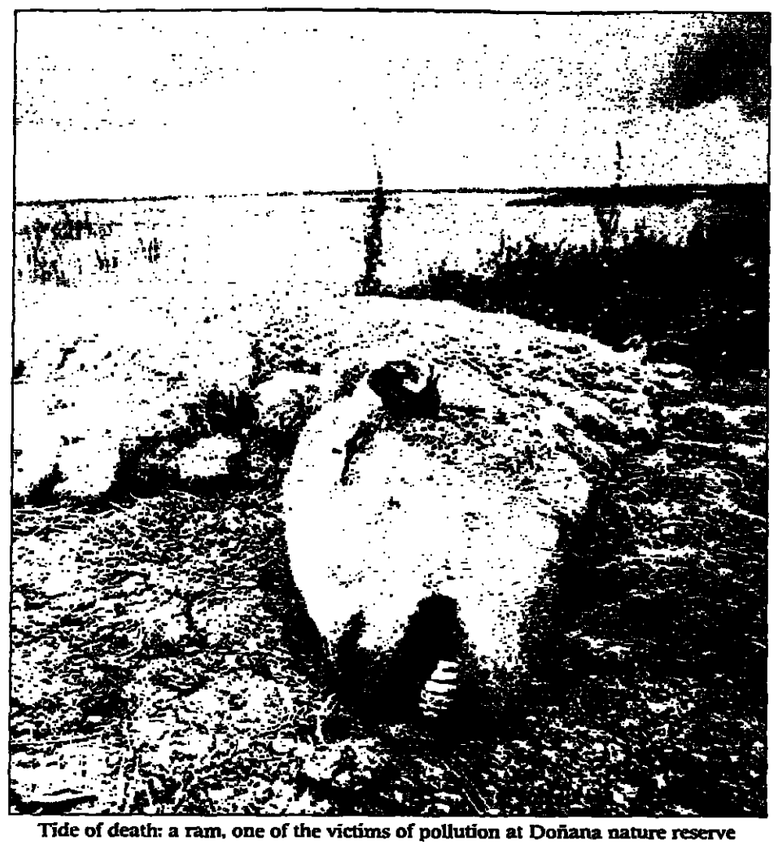
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Menace of arsenic dust bowl

Clean-up workers are themselves at risk, **Giles Tremlett** writes



Tide of death: a ram, one of the victims of pollution at Doñana nature reserve



A dead stork found near the reserve is removed by ornithologist Paco Muñoz

THE holiday brochures do not say it, but tourists travelling to southwestern Spain this summer can add a visit to West Europe's prime ecological disaster zone, the arsenic-poisoned valley of the River Guadiamar, to their itinerary.

Those hoping to enjoy their stay, however, are advised not to visit this 30-mile stretch of river valley painted tar-black by a billion gallons of poisonous waste from the Los Frailes zinc mine at Aznalcóllar on April 25. Scientists have reportedly discovered up to 13lb of arsenic per tonne in the 2 million tonnes of foul-smelling and sulphurous sludge left by the spill.

The Spanish authorities, who have played down the disaster, have admitted finding arsenic but are refusing to confirm the quantities until next week. But they have ordered clean-up workers to be issued with protective masks.

Environmentalists are predicting that on hot, windy days a fine dust heavy with arsenic will be dispersed even more widely. The dust will land on crops and may be carried into Europe's biggest nature reserve, the Coto de Doñana.

Government scientists are unable to explain why arsenic, not a major mining by-product, might be present in such quantities. Once again Spanish environmentalists, who had predicted the mine reservoir would burst its banks, say they have the answer. For years they have said that nearby chemical plants were using the reservoir as an illegal tip; they were ignored.

The arsenic scare is the latest in a series of daily horror stories from an environmental disaster that still threatens great damage to Doñana, where about 250,000 birds are nesting.

Some holidaymakers due to visit the beaches downstream from here, at Sanlúcar de Barrameda, have already thought better of it. Spaniards are changing their villa bookings. Groups of Germans and Russians have already cancelled hotel reservations.



Rebirth: a heron from a rescued egg

The authorities continue to insist there is nothing to fear. The food, water and air are declared safe. But these are the same authorities who said the reservoir dam was safe. Spaniards now have trouble believing them. Instead they are now listening to people such as Miguel Ferrer, the chief scientist at Doñana, who says the toxic water is already in the underground aquifers on the western margin of the River Guadalquivir.

Consumer groups, having given warnings not to buy poisoned fruit from illegal roadside vendors, worry about water used to irrigate crops. "Not even the farmers know what to do," said Francisco Sánchez, of the Federation of Andalusian Consumers' Groups.

Dr Javier Castroviejo, formerly a reserve scientist and now a Unesco adviser on Doñana, says he doubts the fishing grounds in the nearby Guadalquivir are really safe. He would not recommend the delicious fried tiny shrimps, the *tortilla de camarón*, served as a *tapa* in Sanlúcar de Barrameda's bars.

The biggest worry is whether the mine's owners, the regional government and the Environment Ministry know how to clean up the mess. After a week spent blaming each other for the disaster, they decided to pick up the sludge and haul it back to an empty mine at Aznalcóllar.

Four days later they discovered that they were doing it wrong. The huge tracked bulldozers and dumper trucks were sending the poisonous dust into the air. Lighter machinery was needed and workers were given masks.

The clean-up is a race against time. Heavy rainfall in October should drive remaining sludge downstream towards Doñana. The scientists admit the clean-up cannot all be finished by then. Arguments rage over how much, if any, of the pollution has made it into the delicate wetland zone and dunes of Doñana. A Land-Rover ride through the centre of the park reveals that the colonies of pink flamingos and the nests of the threatened imperial eagle remain untouched. Wild boar and deer are sprouting spring horns. Birdwatchers can still spot the purple heron and azure-winged magpie.

But a trip to the nearby Canal de Aguas Mínimas shows that the fringes of the park are badly affected. Here the purple herons and storks wade knee-high in filthy mine water. The fish have died. Environmentalists have given warnings that the birds will have feasted on the abundant dead carp. The heavy metals that killed the fish will be in their bodies.

Nobody really knows what the long-term effects of this spill will be. Only a handful of birds have died so far. Most people now regret having trusted the authorities in the Environment Ministry and the Andalusian regional government in the past. Few show much confidence in them now.



Annan: blamed lack of international will

Rwandans make up with UN

Kigali: Rwandan leaders appeared to be prepared yesterday to continue their relations with the United Nations despite a rebuke to Kofi Annan, its Secretary-General, over the UN's failure to halt the 1994 genocide.

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He and Mr Bizimungu said they were looking forward to a widened co-operation in rebuilding Rwanda. *(AP)*

Milosevic hint of Kosovo mediator dismissed as 'ruse'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WESTERN diplomats dismissed as a ruse talk of a climbdown by President Milosevic over Kosovo as foreign ministers from the six Contact Group countries met in London yesterday to discuss the worsening situation in the province. The talks were held on the eve of new Western sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The ministers, here with colleagues from Japan and Canada to plan the agenda for next week's Group of Eight summit in Birmingham, underlined the danger of an explosion in Kosovo at a dinner last night. But Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, was adamant that Moscow would not join the West in the freeze on new investment in Yugoslavia, due to come into force today because of Mr Milosevic's crackdown on the Albanian majority in Kosovo.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has received a reply from Belgrade to the letter he sent last week urging Yugoslavia to accept international mediation. The Foreign Office said it was "disappointing", and Mr Cook discussed this with Mr Primakov.

The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry yesterday dismissed media reports that Belgrade was preparing to accept foreign mediation in the dispute. Dragomir Vucicevic, a Deputy Foreign Minister, said outside intervention was "unacceptable". But Yugoslav newspapers quoted official sources saying that Mr Milosevic was ready to drop his hard stance and accept mediation by Felipe González, the former Spanish Prime Minister, who has been appointed by the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as a peace envoy to Kosovo.

Mr Milosevic has consistently rejected "mediation" but has hinted that he would accept a peace "facilitator". But Western diplomats suspect that he would agree to such a role only to show that he was willing to talk, and split the Contact Group over imposing sanctions.

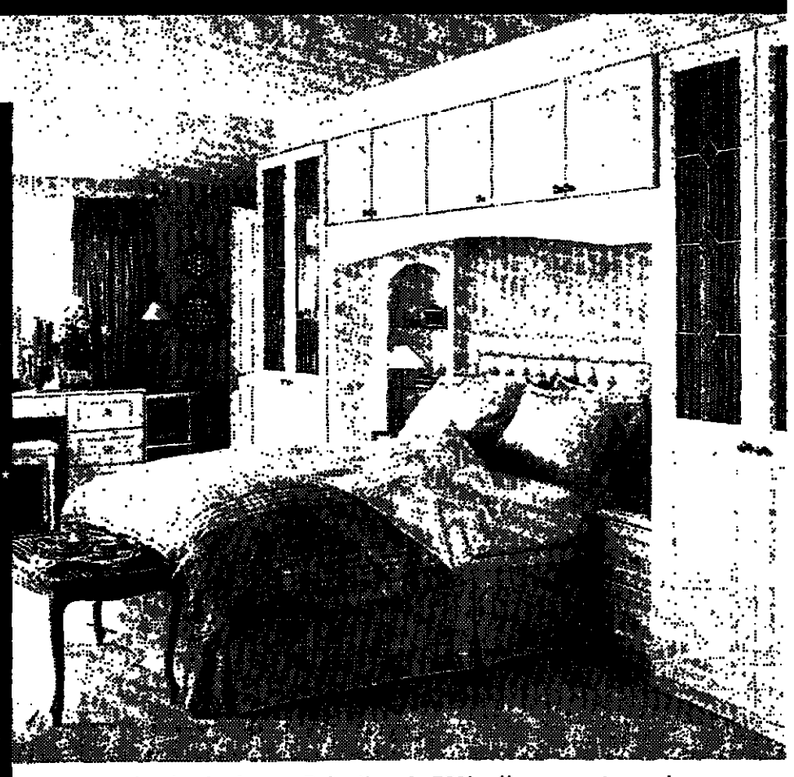
Señor González yesterday poured cold water on hints from Belgrade. He said there was no breakthrough in efforts to persuade Yugoslavia to accept an international role in peace talks. "The news I have is not positive," he said. He called his job "mission impossible".

He said sanctions could still be avoided, however, if Mr Milosevic responded positively within the next 24 hours.

Yugoslavia has invited Señor González to discuss restoring its membership of the OSCE and the lifting of EU trade barriers, but insists that nothing can strengthen pressure on Belgrade. "This would only encourage separatists and terrorists," Mr Vucicevic declared.

☐ **Pristina:** Police shot dead an Albanian during a gun battle at a checkpoint in Kosovo yesterday, and a Serbian policeman was injured in the neck when machinegun fire and grenades spattered a column of police vehicles, according to the Serb media centre close to the Serb Government in Kosovo. *(AP)*

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SOLDIERS FOR SALE

Secret armies: a force to be reckoned with



A private firm guarded Diana in Angola

Their first weapons are glossy brochures and Whitehall phone numbers. Daniel McGrory and Nicholas Wood on the discreet world of 'security consultants'



Tim Spicer being escorted to a Papua New Guinea court last year after an unsuccessful mission by Sandline, his security company

On her first trip to a minefield in the lawless ruins of Angola, Diana, Princess of Wales, did not realise that her British bodyguards were hired guns. They were former members of the SAS had served in the Gulf, and were in the African bush working for a security company with offices near Buckingham Palace.

In the Sixties such men were known as soldiers of fortune. These days their employers insist that they are security consultants.

At the end of her visit, the Princess thanked the squad, believing them to be serving British officers attached to the United Nations, and happily posed for photographs taken by the men. She wrote a letter of thanks to their local boss.

According to their employer, Richard Bethell, a former SAS officer who founded Defence Systems Ltd in 1981, her minders were in Angola to clear landmines and to guard diamond mines. Dare to suggest that they were fighting in an African civil war as mercenaries, and you risk a law suit.

Mr Bethell said: "We were working for the International Red Cross and the British Embassy. We basically coordinated her security. It was an extremely low-key operation. She was looked after in a discreet and careful way."

Firms such as DSL want to be respected and trusted by Whitehall. Their glossy brochures given to possible overseas clients boast of their links with the Establishment. DSL, for example, guarded the American Embassy in Zaire.

Mr Bethell denied that his companies would even dabble in freelance military operations of the kind epitomised by such films as *The Wild Geese*. "I don't believe in doing that type of business," he said from Moscow, where he has another security firm, Gorandel Trading.

"Proper security services are conducted through an official organisation — such as the Foreign Office or the Army — and you are acting under orders. I don't believe in independent action to solve world problems."

DSL describes its work as protective, not offensive. But as the controversy over alleged Foreign Office backing for the role of the London-based company Sandline International in ousting rebels in Sierra Leone shows, not everyone is so squeamish.

Like DSL, with its premises in Buckingham Gate, Sandline operates from smart modern offices in Chelsea — or did until yesterday, when it fled the media scrum outside to a secret location elsewhere in London. Unlike DSL, it is prepared to put together private armies and hire them out to foreign governments.

Sandline's boss, Tim Spicer, a decorated former lieutenant-colonel in the Scots Guards, said that the end of the Cold War and the restraining hand of the superpowers had unleashed chaos in such areas as Africa. "We are back to the 19th-century world of savage little wars."

But like Mr Bethell, Mr Spicer maintains that he operates within the law, acting only for established governments and imposing strict standards of behaviour on his men. "The Rambos wouldn't last five minutes in our business," he said.

Former British soldiers who have come under fire in the Gulf, Ulster and Bosnia are operating in more than 30 countries. Their expertise is coveted by foreign governments, which is why London has become the centre for these private operators.

But the uproar over whether Sandline had government approval to ship arms to Sierra Leone in contravention of a UN embargo has set back the efforts of private security operators to be seen as legitimate. The intelligence services have told Labour ministers that such firms are a growth industry in an increasingly unstable world. There are least ten such firms in London with overseas contracts that are thought to be worth more than £100 million. Experts estimate that more than 8,000 former British soldiers are on their books.

They are hired out to protect oil installations, mines and leading politicians and industrialists. European Security Operatives, of Westgate, Kent, said that it could send a "full combat team anywhere in the world in 48 hours". Pay at ESO ranges from £150 a day in a low-risk area to £300 where the dangers are greatest.

Carl Moon, one of its directors, said that his firm supplied bodyguards and close protection but not mercenaries. But he agreed that not everyone is so scrupulous: "There are certain things dealt out of the UK which shouldn't be."

David Shearer, of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, said: "Governments like ours don't want to intervene in crises like Sierra Leone's, but they want the right outcome, so are content that these private operators do the job for them.

"British foreign policy is being shaped more by international corporate policy. Today's mercenaries don't fight bush wars to win back countries, they just protect vital assets.

"They hate to be thought of as hired guns. They are trying to be as legitimate as possible, which is why they want somebody in Whitehall to sanction their operations, even if that person omits to tell a minister. They also prefer to remain confidential, but the more they are used the more success they have — that is their advertisement for more work."

Not everyone is happy with the advent of "privatised peacemaking". One of them is Millius Palayiwa, who advised on mediation during the fighting in Sierra Leone, where Executive Outcomes, a South African firm, and then Sandline, with which it works closely, were paid to fight rebels.

Mr Palayiwa, a Zimbabwean-born lawyer living in Oxford, said that the term "private security" was an euphemism for mercenary activities. "Mercenaries have been involved in Africa since the 1960s, when they went to the Congo. They have taken the money out of Africa, and the minerals, and left misery, death and poverty.

"But when we talk about Executive Outcomes and Sandline, we are not talking about the dogs of war of the 1960s. They are very sophisticated. They have excellent public relations, excellent intelligence. They are well trained with sophisticated weapons. They operate as businesses."

In Sandline's unsuccessful mission to Papua New Guinea last year, the contract was worth £21 million for sending a 16-man command team and a 54-strong special forces group to train and to lead the government forces. When security firms stay on to guard commerical assets, or to diversify into other areas such as airlines and hotels, Mr Palayiwa sees it as a new form of colonialism. He says that companies such as Executive Outcomes and Sandline are "powerful enough to dislodge any government in Africa".

There is no shortage of recruits for the firms. This generation of soldiers has fought in more wars than any of their predecessors in the past 50 years. There are veterans from the Falklands, the Gulf War, Northern Ireland and peacekeeping duties in Bosnia, where British troops killed more than any other nationality in the UN force. At the same time, the Army has sacked more men than ever.

Their new employers pay

Continued on facing page

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SOLDIERS FOR SALE



An employee of the South African firm Executive Outcomes, accompanied by a Nigerian soldier, manning a helicopter gun port during successful fighting to overcome Sierra Leone rebels

From previous page

them between £100 and £400 a day. Often there is a bonus that is kept until they fulfil the contract without talking about their job.

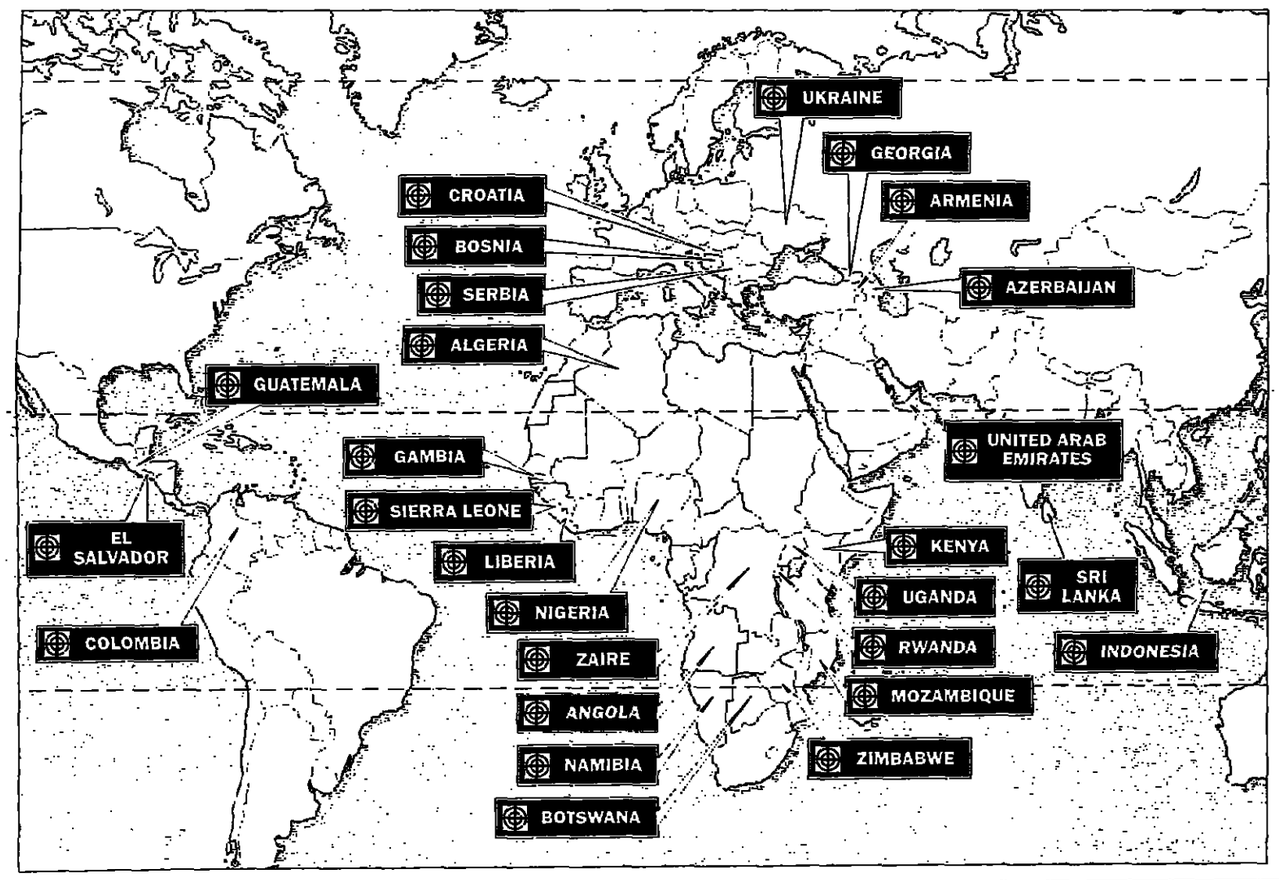
A former major in the parachute regiment who works for a private contractor said: "If we do operate in civil wars, we are there as advisers or trainers. But of course we are on the frontline, and the excuse is so that we can see if our training is working. Fact is, we take care of communications, logistics and the more sophisticated weaponry."

He said that recruits are warned that if they are killed on such missions, their bodies will be disposed of locally. "The insurance is about £25,000 to your family, but the firm denies that you were ever there."

The companies list Algeria, Colombia, Guatemala, the former Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, the Soviet republics, Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda and other African states among their clients.

They are also used by Customs and Excise and VAT inspectors in their investigations. A former soldier turned "security consultant" said: "We have surveillance techniques, they don't. We do the dirty work and let them make the arrests when we have the evidence or have found their targets. They don't want to lie in a water-filled ditch for three days and nights, or eavesdrop for a week; and we can and do."

GLOBAL THEATRE OF WAR: NATIONS WHOSE UNREST MAKE THEM TARGETS FOR MILITARY ADVICE



'What else could I do but be a soldier?'

By Daniel McGrory

ROLAND GIBSON was serving with the UN peacekeeping force in Sarajevo in 1996 when he was made redundant by the Army. Today he is back in the Bosnian capital, working for a London-based security company and advising the local military on communications and logistics.

Like most of his profession, he objects to being called a mercenary. "We don't go and fight wars for money, though I admit there were mavericks from the British Army who fought for all three sides in former Yugoslavia.

"I'm here now as an adviser to make sure the Bosnian Government know how to protect themselves. I'm not even allowed to carry a gun. What I do for my own protection, though, is my business.

"I joined the Army at 18 and left at 42. What else could I do but be a soldier? I'm on a year's contract which is worth just under £30,000 a year — not the sort of money people think so-called mercenaries get. There is no security or pension fund in what I do, but then what choice do I have?"

Now divorced with two children, aged 11 and 9, he turned down a more lucrative job in Algeria, where two of his former colleagues are working as bodyguards to a prominent industrialist. "The money is good but the place is mad," he said. "Most Brits do not want to be running around with guns".

Unstable regimes provide main work

By Nicholas Wood

BRITISH and other Western security firms operate all over the world. But their activities are mainly in the 30 to 40 countries where official forces of law and order are weak or non-existent.

The list, from Algeria to Zaire, reads like Amnesty International's blacklist of unsavoury regimes. Africa is one of the main areas, its slide towards anarchy accelerated by the end of the Cold War.

In countries such as Angola, Uganda and Kenya, the work typically involves guarding assets such as oilfields and gold and diamond mines. The Western or local businessmen running such operations and their leading technical staff are also closely protected by the firms operating out of London, other European cities or America. The companies also clear landmines and train local troops.

European Security Operatives is negotiating a contract to supply 20 bodyguards, mainly former soldiers, trained in self-defence and the use of high-powered weapons, for work in Asia. The company's director, Carl Moon, refuses to specify the location but says that his men will be working for 18 months for corporate clients.

In Algeria, British firms have supplied bodyguards to VIPs and industrialists and advised its Government on anti-terrorist operations. Angola, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone have all witnessed direct military intervention by Western mercenaries, apparently with the backing of their governments.

In the old days of "Mad Mike Hoare" and his dogs of war in the Congo, mercenaries would seek to take the money and run — to another war and, the prospect of more booty. But today, the firms employing them are likely to stay, diversifying into more mundane activities.

The war in Bosnia offered ample opportunities for security advisers. Military Professional Resources Inc, a company based in Virginia with 2,000 former officers on its books, supplied $200 million (£117.6 million) of military supplies and special forces trainers to help the Croats to overcome the Serbs.

In Colombia, British firms have helped to track drug barons and have trained local drug-enforcement teams.

Former Soviet republics such as Azerbaijan and Georgia have been a hunting ground for redundant Russian soldiers, who have been found fighting on both sides in the civil wars that have broken out with the collapse of Moscow's authority.

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Our man in Havana finds a soul on ice

Jimmy Pringle recalls Eldridge Cleaver and an almost fatal scoop

When I heard of the death of Eldridge Cleaver on May 1, aged 62, recollections came flooding back of my own dramatic encounter with the Black Panther leader in 1969. It was an encounter I thought I might not survive.

On my way to a new assignment as the Reuters man in Havana in late 1968, I had stopped in New York, and American colleagues told me to look out for Cleaver in Cuba, as he had jumped bail in the US after an earlier shoot-out with police and disappeared. Cleaver's mugshot was on police posters saying that he was wanted for "armed assault with intent to kill". Everyone was soon to be reading his angry prison memoirs, *Soul on Ice*.

Some months later, having covered a dozen airliner hijackings from the US into Havana, mainly by black hijackers, I heard rumours that Cleaver was indeed in the Cuban capital, and that he had been seen in a downtown area near my flat.

I began knocking on doors, until a Cuban housewife told me she had seen an American "coloured man" sitting on a fifth-floor balcony near by. Locating the building, I found one could only reach the fifth floor via a small lift at the back. I ascended and knocked on a door. It was answered by a large African-American wearing the black beret of the Panthers. When I asked for Cleaver, he invited me in.

Stepping forward, I looked to my left and saw the man I had seen on the FBI's most-wanted list. An Aretha Franklin record was playing on the turntable. Cleaver was working on a new book. He said he could not give me a formal interview, as he did not want me to reveal he was in Cuba, but if I left my telephone number he would contact me when the time was right. I made no commitment. As I wrote down my number beside his telephone, I memorised his own.

Back at my flat, I punched out a story on the teletype machine linked to Havana's central telegraph office, where I presumed news was vetted. I wondered whether the censor would let it go. It began: "Eldridge Cleaver, the fugitive Black Panther leader, is living and writing in Havana."

My incredulous colleagues came on the telephone from New York. I had to assure them that I had indeed found Cleaver, ahead of the FBI.

Next morning I turned on *Voice of America* and Cleaver's presence in Havana was a lead story, quoting Reuters. It was also a front-page story in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. The *Los Angeles Times*, which did not subscribe to Reuters then, bought the service on the spot in order to run the story.

I quickly called Cleaver to tell him that, because he was a public personality, I had no choice but to report his whereabouts. Hopefully, I asked him for a full interview. He sounded upset. Perhaps he thought his security compromised: he certainly stood to forfeit substantial bail, having fled the US. He asked me to come over.

I was met at the door by three well-built black men in berets. Two I recognised as plane hijackers, and I knew one was an escaped convict with a murder conviction. They told me menacingly to come with them.

As we entered the tiny elevator, I wondered whether I would emerge alive. But, after implying that I was connected with the CIA in some way, they let me go with the words "you'll be hearing from us".

Two days later, a 19-year-old ballerina with the Cuban National Ballet, whom I had met two or three times at parties, came unannounced to my flat and told me she had overheard her boyfriend, who was a Panther, talking about me. "I think you are in deep trouble," she said. "The authorities don't know it but they have guns, and they are talking about harming you."

Sure enough, I received several bogus phone calls from the Panthers, whose voices I recognised, claiming to be — in one instance — a Swedish choreographer. If I would just give him my address, he would come round to be interviewed by me.

I had never felt so alone. Even the Tet offensive in Vietnam, which I had covered, was less frightening. When I advised the Cuban Foreign Ministry that I might be in serious trouble, they told me: "Don't worry. You are under the collective vigilance of the masses." By this they meant the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, vigilante groups of busybodies on every block. Not reassured, I reported what was going on to the British Consul, and slept a few nights with his family. Cuban officials then invited me on a "special trip" to the east. On my return a week later, they let me know the Panthers had left, and seemed glad to see the back of them.

Cleaver and the others turned up in Algiers, where one told an American reporter that, tired of Cuba, they had planned to seize the Reuters man as a hostage and bargain their way out. If that had happened, a shoot-out with police would have ensued, with me in the middle.

Cleaver wrote of our encounter in Havana in his next book. Unlike his hijacker colleagues — most of whom were not real Panthers seeking justice for blacks, just ex-cons and thugs — I had not detected any real menace in him.

A short time later, I was flying from Mexico City to New York. My neighbours both to right and left were reading *Soul on Ice*. They remarked on this and one said: "Did you see? Some British reporter claims to have spoken to Cleaver in Havana!"

I decided to hold my tongue.

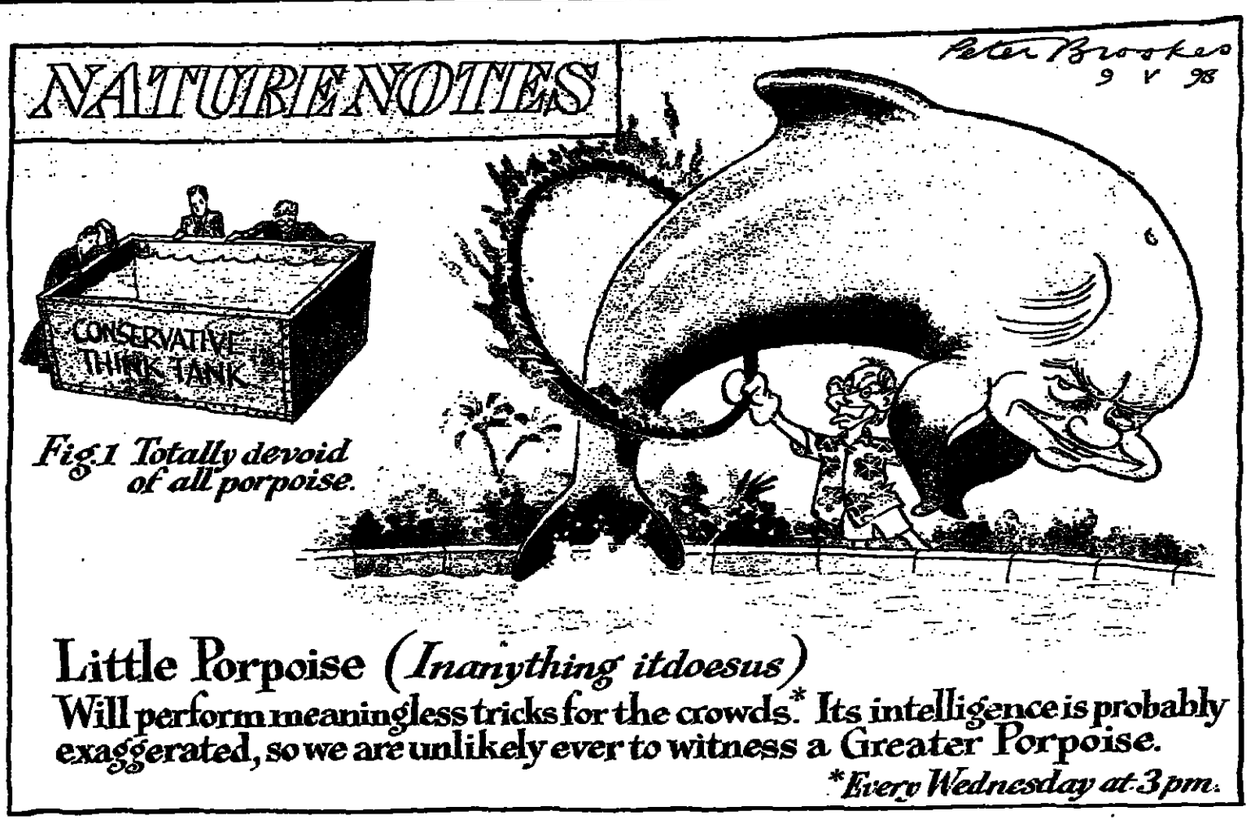


Fig.1 Totally devoid of all porpoise.

Little Porpoise (*Inanything itdoesus*)
Will perform meaningless tricks for the crowds.* Its intelligence is probably exaggerated, so we are unlikely ever to witness a Greater Porpoise.
**Every Wednesday at 3pm.*

Brum beats the brutalists

Our second city, host to the G8 summit, has changed from ugly sister to Cinderella

Simon Jenkins

Never protest at a royal visit, a left-wing teacher once told his colleagues. Nothing can repaint a lavatory or mend a fence faster than a royal. Somehow the job suddenly gets done. For monarch now read statesman. The gilded progress around Britain's cities of Tony Blair's "enterprise cool world" is comparable with that of Good Queen Bess.

Millions have already been spent entertaining Mr Blair's friends this past year in Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, Birmingham and London. Cardiff is blowing £6.5 million on hosting next month's two-day Euro-summit. The travelling Euro-summits have inflated to 10,000 "accredited attendees". Not for them the telephone or the Website. Next weekend a separate Field of Cloth of Gold will spread luxuriantly over the city of Birmingham to entertain the G8 summit. Visitors will include Bill Clinton, Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl.

An entire hangar at the airport is to become a VIP suite. The cost of flags in Birmingham stores has soared to £54 each. Banquets are being held on both Friday and Saturday. The total cost of the G8 visit is some £9 million, of which £800,000 will fall on the local council. Nothing is being left to chance. The city has launched a personal hygiene campaign, under the slogan "Get your hair cut, Marge, Bill Clinton's coming to town".

Economic summits were once informal "fireside chats" with no officials or press present. Today they rival the extravaganzas of the Shah of Persia or Emperor Bokassa. Birmingham expects 2,000 delegates and 3,000 journalists. The modern statesman is a serial conferee. Mr Blair took a retinue to Washington that was twice the size of Margaret Thatcher's. The banquets and press briefings become camera-friendly proxies for power. The much-vaunted "virtual diplomacy" of the Internet is a joke. You cannot reboot filet mignon and Chateau Palmer with a mouse-click.

Back to Birmingham. The iron law of places, like that of races, is that satire from outsiders is bad form. It takes a black to ridicule blacks, a Jew to ridicule Jews. Poke fun at Birmingham and local MPs Clare Short and Jeff Rooker will be round at your door by nightfall with baseball bat and chainsaw. But I am no outsider. My first ever act of recklessness was to insist on coming into the world in a Birmingham hospital. I have loyally, and laboriously, entered the sacred name on a thousand visa forms ever since. I claim immunity.

Before the last war, Birmingham was a world city. It was adorned with magnificent streets and buildings, many built under the leadership of the mighty Chamberlains. Colmore Row was to rival Bath, Corporation Street to be a Parisian boulevard. The Big Brum tower on the museum was the Big Ben of the Midlands. This was civic leadership proud and strong.

That Birmingham lasted barely half a century. It was bombed, modestly, by the Germans. There then followed a more savage period of destruction by the leaders of the city itself. On my first visit as an adult, I can recall nothing but horror: the awful aspect from New Street station, the drab civic centre, the ugly Bull Ring, the bleak slabs of the Ringway and Holloway Circus. Threading through them was a sequence of urban freeways, throttling the centre in a "concrete collar" and forcing pedestrians into the air or underground. As old streets fell to rubble, residents and businesses fled in terror.

Central Birmingham was the nearest Britain came to the Karl-Marx-Stadts of behind the Iron Curtain. It was the only city in Britain that could offer, and briefly use, its downtown streets as a grand prix circuit. And since the architects of these monsters usually escape unnamed and unblamed, let us briefly drag them from their well-deserved obscurity: Sheppard Fidler, James Roberts, J.H.D. Madin, Sheridan-Shedden, Frederick Gibberd, Cotton, Ballard and Blow. In a profession more conscious of its public image than architecture, these vandals would be excoriated and struck off the register. As it is, their apologists appeal to the "*Zeitgeist*", to the hatred of the old and the love of the car. The car was to Birmingham what cigarettes are to Richmond, Virginia — an untouchable icon.

Today Birmingham has changed almost beyond recognition. In 1987 a seminar was summoned at Highbury which initiated what in South Africa would now be called a Truth Commission. Those planners did not pretend. They examined their mistakes, called them mistakes and set about correcting them. Disaster areas, notably the central core, were identified as such. Through traffic was, wherever possible, ejected or forced underground. The Bull Ring was scheduled for demolition, along with whole stretches of elevated motorway. No other city has yet shown such ruthless penitence for past errors.

The city then sought to recover its memory lost in the abuse trauma of those heirs of Stalin and le Corbusier. The method was drastic. With manufacturing in decline, the city knew that its future lay with finance, leisure and tourism, activities notoriously sensitive to quality of life. Former "craft villages" associated with canals, jewellery, gunmaking and small engineering were unearthed from the wilderness and made the focus of renewal. The planners grasped at such fragments of urban character as canal basins, historic façades, back alleys and anything that might appeal to the arts and tourism.

The city bribed Simon Rattle and his symphony orchestra with a concert hall better than any in London. Sadler's Wells ballet was enticed to take up permanent residence. Last month the splendid new Ikon Gallery opened in a warehouse near Gas Street Basin. Behind the new convention centre, in the once derelict Brindleyplace, is one of the most impressive concentrations of modern architecture in Britain. It has works by Sir Norman Foster, Allies and Morrison, Piers Gough, Dimitri Porphyrios and Levitt Bernstein. Soaring above will rise the Japanese-designed City Tower, now planned to be higher than Canary Wharf.

Scan the publicity for the G8 summit and you will not find a single shot of Sixties or Seventies Birmingham. Careful camera angles show scenes that might be in old Boston or even Amsterdam. A confident modern city no longer boasts motorways, airports, office blocks and besuited conference delegates. Its feel-good icons are a canal barge, a pas de deux, oranges in a street market, a sculpture park and a symphony orchestra. The worst way to attract a businessman is with pictures of other businessmen. You dust your image with a gloss of culture. You hide your city behind a village façade. Even mock-ups of City Tower show a canal towpath in the foreground. Today's urban planner dreams not of Manhattan but of Venice. Birmingham is "rescue planning" at its most radical.

This rescue is overdue in most British cities. Their European rivals struggled after the war to reinstate the personality lost to bombing. Britain tried instead to eradicate whatever personality survived. The arrogance of modern architecture predated the humility of modern conservation. To make matters worse, the relationship between cities and central government was wholly skewed towards the latter. This stripped incentive from local leadership. Fifteen years of rate-capping left no discretionary money for fringe activities such as culture or environment.

Birmingham was luckier than most. Its leaders through this period, Richard Knowles and Albert Bore, were ready to defy Whitehall and go for help direct to Europe. Tory ministers such as John Gummer regarded Birmingham as a citadel of cantankerous localism. Birmingham bloody-mindedly went its own way. But its cynicism is understandable. The city's ratepayers were banned by London from spending their own money improving their streets or repairing their schools. Now Whitehall breezes into town and blows £8 million on a weekend of bigwig partying.

Yet as the teacher said, royal visits have their uses. Birmingham means to make the best of this one. It will be host to a greater concentration of fame than ever in its history. For ten years it has struggled to regain its pride and has done so. It can go as Cinderella to the ball. I shall sign my visas with a prouder heart.

Adding insult to intimacy

Erica Wagner on life, fiction and Hanif Kureishi

The story goes like this. The first performance of *The Clouds*, Aristophanes's satirical comedy, took place in Athens in 423BC; in the distinguished audience was Socrates, the object of the playwright's wit. It is said that when the mocking version of himself appeared on stage, the philosopher stood, indicating proudly to his companions that he was the original of the caricature.

More than 2,000 years later, Anthony Powell receives a phone call from Frank Longford, who has been asked to appear in a television programme about people who have "appeared" in novels. Is he, he inquires, the original of Kenneth Widmerpool, the ridiculous, somewhat sinister figure who haunts Powell's *roman-fleuve*, *A Dance to the Music of Time*? Powell wrote in his diary: "I began to explain he was not, but he cut me short, saying 'authors always say that'. After a bit I began to understand that he wanted to 'be' Widmerpool."

Fiction is drawn from life. Even if a novel, or a story, or a poem, appears to have nothing to do with the writer's experience, it is that experience which shaped the fiction: the two are inextricably entwined. Yet there are times when the parallels seem far too close for comfort. Hanif Kureishi is quoted as saying that "people are sometimes flattered to appear in a book". That "sometimes" is an important qualification. Kureishi's latest novel, *Intimacy*, chronicles the narrator's decision to leave the mother of his two sons. The strong similarities, in this novel, between life and art have already been noted: his portrait of Susan, the girlfriend, is not a flattering one. Kureishi appears to have compounded the sin of stealing from his own life by fictionalising his upbringing in a *Guardian* interview; this according to his sister, Yasmin, in a letter to that paper.

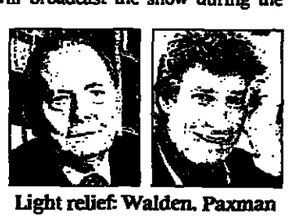
Was Kureishi wrong to write *Intimacy* as he did? To those close to him, the question may not seem at all vexed: for the artist it often is. A little while ago my own book, *Gravity*, was published. In it was a story whose factual details — a house, a fall from a bicycle — were drawn from my life. I did not intend to cause any hurt to anyone who shared that life, but I did. A breach opened and was, I think, repaired: I was sorry for the hurt I had caused, I was not sorry for writing the story. The characters who inhabit the tale are made up: you can, however, only take my word for that.

The art of fiction is much more than storytelling: Solzhenitsyn or Salman Rushdie could tell you that. Fiction is a lens through which life may be viewed: in sharper, focus, perhaps; and we tell ourselves the stories of our lives whether we are writers or not. Our stories, however, are never completely our own. One of fiction's many uses may well be to wound: the publication of Amanda Craig's novel caricaturing the London literary scene, *A Vicious Circle*, published in 1996, caused some stir among the denizens of that scene. Whether it will stand the test of time as a work of art remains to be seen: satire is a very fragile form.

A story is, in any case, a clumsy way to air a grievance, leaving too much room for guesswork, for mistakes. But words, however clumsy, have an inherent power of which the writer must always be aware: "Words are actions and they make things happen. Once they are out, you cannot put them back. Something irrevocable will have been done." So it says on the very first page of Hanif Kureishi's *Intimacy*.

Anchor's away

BRIAN WALDEN, the heavyweight political interviewer, is following Jeremy Paxman into the world of the televisual quiz show. Walden, Baroness Thatcher's favourite inquisitor, made a pilot for the show *Death By Sport* this week. The former *Weekend World* anchorman is now hoping that Channel 5 executives will broadcast the show during the World Cup. The quiz, a cross between *A Question of Sport* and *Fifteen-to-One*, is something of a come-down for Walden. The former Labour MP used to spend his Sunday lunchtimes attempting to demolish politicians, but his big slots finished in 1994. Walden's last high-profile show was a series earlier this year for BBC2 in which he described Nelson Mandela as "feckless and autocratic".



Light relief: Walden, Paxman

Quiz shows, however, are becoming the vogue for newscasters keen to show they can do more than read an Autocue. Martyn Lewis, the BBC news presenter, moonlights on *Today's The Day*, a trivial pursuit, while Jeremy Paxman has stepped into the brogues of Bamber Gascoigne to chair *University Challenge*. "They are similar disciplines," says Walden. "Interviewers are used to asking a question and waiting patiently for a reply. But with politicians there are no right or wrong answers, just interesting or boring ones."



● *BRITFOOD is the latest fad to be added to the menu for entertainment under the Millennium Dome. Organisers of Peter Mandelson's* grand projet *have asked 12 leading foodies to advise on feeding the masses. The gourmet think-tank will include Prue Leith, Richard Shepherd of Langan's and Laurence Isaacson, co-founder of the Chez Gerard group. At least visitors will not end up hungry, even if they are spiritually undernourished.*

You're bard

AUBERON WAUGH does not like poets. While applying for a drinks licence for the Academy, his private club in Soho, the Editor of the *Literary Review* was asked by the chairman of the magistrates what kind of people would be patronising the new venue. When Waugh responded that poets were absolutely banned, the JP's face lit up and the licence was issued on the spot.

But why such an extreme literary sanction? "The reason poets were originally banned from the old Academy was partly that they could talk of nothing but themselves, partly that they never paid for their drinks and partly that all the pretty women fell in love with them." Bron should rename his club the Dead Poets' Society.

● *CHRIS BLACKWELL, the multi-millionaire recording magnate who founded Island Records, is today due to marry Mary Vinson, his long-time companion, under a guango tree on his 1,500-acre estate on Jamaica. The Old Harrovian, who helped to launch Bob Marley, Soul 2 Soul, U2 and Dolores O'Riordan of the Cranberries, will make his vows in front of 30 friends and Blanche, his mother, according to* The Gleaner. *No doubt Marley's* One love, One heart. Let's get together and feel all right *will be ringing in guests' ears.*

THE TIMES DIARY

EDWARD WELSH



Island girl: Dolores O'Riordan

Chip supper

THE Duchess of St Albans has become Queen Midas. Celebrating her birthday, she swept down to her local casino with some friends including Dai Llewellyn, the old roué, who presented the duchess with a chip. Playing roulette, she placed the gift on her lucky number and won handsomely. She then headed off with her chums to Annabel's to imbibe the proceeds, living up to the St Albans family motto: "A pledge of better times".

● *WHAT a relief to find that No 10 is even tardier than myself about pulling on to the information superhighway. Yesterday I asked Tony Blair's office to send me something via e-mail and discovered that, despite the PM urging us all to get seriously nerdy, his staff could only fax the missive. Apparently it will be a few weeks yet before Downing Street becomes truly computer-friendly.*

Idol fancy

LEONARDO DICAPRIO is growing up. The *Titanic* star is talking with Spike Lee, the film-maker, about playing the lead in his new movie. *The Summer of Sam* is about a punk rocker, living in the Bronx, who gets caught up in a wave of murders in New York in 1976. But will all those teenage girls pay to see him with a red mohican?



"I SAW the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked." With these opening words from *Howl*, Allen Ginsberg, the New York poet, ushered in the Beat movement that scandalised Fifties America by the Bohemian lifestyle of its proponents such as William Burroughs, Jack Kerouac (top right) and Neal Cassady (left) and their writing about sex, drinking and psychedelic substances. Next weekend, some of the best minds who survived — and more recent converts — are gathering at St James's Church in Piccadilly to pay tribute to Ginsberg (top centre), who died in April last year, with an evening of poetry, reminiscences and jazz. Bono (bottom right), the lead singer with U2, who worked with the poet shortly before his death, and Marianne Faithfull (centre) are expected to pay tribute alongside Michael Horovitz, the British poet, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the San Francisco bard and publisher of *Howl*. Horovitz, who was encouraged to take up the muse by Ginsberg, says: "The Beats promoted uninhibited ecstasy. They restored the body and tongue to the American grass roots." The atmosphere, I am assured, will be suitably laid-back.

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مكبّرة من الأصل

DEAR FOREIGN SECRETARY

How does one get through to Robin Cook?

The premonitory rumbling is over. The earthquake that Robin Cook has spent the past week wishing away cannot any longer be ignored. Three days ago, the Secretary of State assured the House of Commons that he knew nothing about the Sandline arms shipments or the Customs investigation until the middle of the previous week, after his office had received a letter from Sandline's solicitors. The question is no longer whether or how Sandline acted in breach of UN sanctions; it is who has been pushing what under which carpet.

The solicitors' letter, now in the public domain, was addressed to Mr Cook in person, marked "strictly private and confidential" and "to be opened only by the addressees". It was copied to two other Cabinet ministers, Margaret Beckett at Trade and Industry and George Robertson at Defence as well as to others. It was dated Friday, April 24 — five days before Mr Cook claims to have been first informed. It was sent by fax as well as post.

It has never seemed likely that civil servants would have approved these shipments unless they believed that they had political clearance. It has always seemed improbable that Tony Lloyd, the Minister for Africa, who on March 12 voluntarily delivered himself of a statement to the House hotly denying any official collusion in arms shipments to Sierra Leone, could have done so without first questioning his officials closely enough to establish, at the least, that they had just ordered a Customs investigation. Mr Lloyd has yet to explain why he considered this matter of such minor importance that, in testimony to a Commons select committee, it simply slipped his mind that he had been put in the picture in mid-April rather than May 1, as he claimed.

Deniability has now far exceeded the limits of the plausible. It beggars belief that a letter that asserted full-blown co-operation at every stage between Sandline, Her Majesty's Government and the US Administration, and maintained that the DTI end user certificate for the Sandline shipments was signed by President Kabbah himself, would have been left to moulder for five days in all three ministerial pending trays.

The letter states that five senior officials approved these shipments. Among those it names as directly and closely involved prior to the shipments are Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, and the US Ambassador to that country; the deputy head of the FCO's Africa Department and the head of the US State Department's West Africa division; and the US Assistant Secretary for Special Operations at Defence. Sandline, it says, was given to understand that it had clearance from the head of the Africa department. Those allegedly briefed about Sandline's involvement include the British Army military adviser to the UN Special Envoy to Sierra Leone. *HMS Cornwall*, whose officers allegedly assisted in the repair of a Sandline helicopter, was in fact photographed last March, the month that the operation to restore President Kabbah took place, alongside a Nigerian frigate.

The officials who have been named are not allowed to speak out in their own defence. It would be inexcusable for politicians to deny them the chance to set the record straight, while ministers continue to deny all responsibility. The Foreign Office's spokesman yesterday cited an undertaking to Customs as the reason why he could not even say when Mr Cook read the solicitors' letter. The Customs investigation could take months.

If Mr Cook was really not informed about the contents of this letter, then his reputed allergy to red boxes acquires a disquieting significance. Neither Margaret Beckett nor George Robertson shares that reputation; were they too not told, or did they not bother to pick up the telephone to Mr Cook?

If the letter is even partly correct, the public is being asked to believe that the Foreign Office and the MoD have lost their collective head, that the Royal Navy is in the business of assisting unauthorised mercenary operations and that officials in the Department of Trade and Industry sign end user certificates without looking at the signatures on them. If any of the above is true, and if ministers have known nothing all these months, then this is, at the very best interpretation, an inexperienced team with still much to learn about the international arena. To a less charitable interpreter, it might even be described as another Government "in office but not in power".

THEY'RE OFF

A London mayor is born: now the real politics begins

On a night of little change in most councils, the endorsement of an elected mayor for London offers the most hope for future innovation and entertainment in local government. A turnout of barely 34 per cent is a modest platform from which to start a constitutional revolution. Yet this low participation more likely reflected apathy than antagonism. It might also have been influenced by the prospect of either Ken Livingstone or Jeffrey Archer as the capital's first commander. If so, such reservations will have been silently shared in Downing Street and Conservative Central Office.

The next six months will surely see both major parties combing the city for alternative champions. In a perfect world, there would be a compelling case for fresh figures, from the arts or business perhaps, without past service in the House of Commons. It is a reasonable assumption, however, that the final choice will be made from those whose names have already been mentioned. That suggests that Steve Norris, or, possibly, Sebastian Coe or Chris Patten will be the Tory opposition to Lord Archer. For Labour, Tony Banks, Glenda Jackson, Trevor Phillips or Chris Smith could emerge.

Mr Livingstone's prospective campaign presents the Prime Minister with a dilemma. The former leader of the GLC remains popular with Labour activists and, amazingly, with the wider electorate. There are three powerful arguments against "the People's Candidate": his record at the GLC; his hostility to all that Labour now represents; and his distaste for the idea of elected mayors. The Prime Minister will want to find a more subtle device than simply excluding Mr Livingstone from the party shortlist. He may, however, have little choice but to resort to Stalinist techniques in order to save London from Leninism.

William Hague faces a similar conundrum with Lord Archer. The author is an exceptional performer on the constituency circuit. As a politician in his own right, however, he is not respected by party activists and his selection in a primary of Conservative members is far from automatic. At the moment he is deploying a private fortune to create the false impression of inevitability. If the Conservative high command united around an alternative then Lord Archer might find that even several million pennies more would not help him.

This shameless scheming on all sides seems to exclude one set of people, the citizens of London. Some would suggest that an effort to derail the front runners would be an affront to democracy. The electorate's interests would actually be well served by a conspiracy against the Archer-Livingstone combination. The capital requires a mayor committed to the post, qualified in the particular tasks the position will involve — transport and economic development — and capable of constructive engagement with Whitehall. The country needs this experiment to be seen as a success if the idea is to win approval elsewhere. A contest between, for example, Chris Smith and Steve Norris, would benefit Mr Blair, Mr Hague, and those who live in London.

HONOURS COURSE

Answer the following questions for your BA in Golf



One: physiology. At all square on the 18th green, you have a four-foot putt to win the club medal. Your muscles and nerves freeze as you are seized with the yips. Do you (a) Change to a right-over-left grip? (b) Switch to a broomhandle putter? (c) Pretend that you heard your opponent concede, and pick up your ball?

Two: philosophy and psychology. Discuss the lateral water hazards of Walter Hagen ("Don't forget to smell the flowers along the way"), Ben Hogan ("I dreamt I had 17 holes in 1 and woke up mad about the one I had missed"), and George Burns ("Give me my golf clubs, the fresh air and a beautiful woman as a partner — and you can have the golf clubs and the fresh air").

Three: geography. Compare and contrast how the climatic and socio-economic conditions might affect a late evening round at (a) Mauna Lani in Hawaii, (b) the 12-hole course at Blackwaterfoot on Arran and (c) the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

Four: mathematics. If player A drives off on a 430-yard right-handed dogleg, when the angle of the dogleg is 22 degrees and the wind is blowing directly across the fairway from right to left at 10 knots, and hits player B who is standing in the bunker on the far edge of the green, how far has his ball travelled (a) absolutely in relation to the television camera on its crane and (b) in relation to the club secretary?

Five: etiquette. (a) Does Peter Alliss count as either a loose impediment, an immovable object or unplayable balls according to the first 1754 code of rules? (b) Imagine a matchplay situation in which it is incumbent on the golfer to cry "Fore!" as he putts. (c) You are accustomed to deduct a stroke from your score at every hole as an unofficial bisque; you score an albatross 1 on the short third; so do you enter zero on your card?

Six: history. Mark their cards for (a) Mary, Queen of Scots; (b) Miss Issette Pearson (author of *Our Lady of the Green*, 1899); and Helen of Troy (Philip, foozling with his cleek./ Drove his ball through Helen's cheek:/ Sad they bore her corpse away./ Seven up and six to play). Compare and contrast the Roman game of *paganica* (from *paganus* a rustic), *cambuca* in England, *chole* in Belgium, *jeu de mail* in France and *kolven* in The Netherlands.

Seven: anatomy. Explain (if necessary with diagrams) how the relationship between posture, alignment, spine angle and subsequent degree of arm-swing determine whether a golfer's swing-plane is either (a) flat, (b) upright, or (c) perfect.

Eight: practical. Go directly to the first tee. On no account say: "It's only a game."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ending criminal violence in Ulster

From Mr Leolin Price, QC

Sir, A 79-year-old man has been wickedly assaulted by wicked men seeking to enforce by criminal action their wicked organisation's control by fear of part of Northern Ireland's population ("I called the holy name ... they left me to die", report and photograph, May 7).

What is disgraceful about this is not that the enforcers made a mistake in selecting their victim. The disgrace is that intimidation is tolerated and the intimidators are not brought to book. Every attack by them is, simply, a wicked and intolerable crime.

As long as such attacks continue there is no rule of law and participation in Good Friday's agreement by those responsible for, or accepting, intimidation is marred by their manifest insincerity. Any organisation which seeks to speak for any part of Northern Ireland's population must surely disclaim, discontinue and denounce this cruel, criminal activity, and see that the enforcers and those who purport to authorise them desist, or are named and brought to justice.

It is a pity then that in the section about "prisoners" at page 25 of Good Friday's agreement, paragraph 2 does not say that prisoners affiliated to organisations which continue, or continue support for, the criminal intimidation of Northern Ireland people will not benefit from the provisions for release.

Yours truly,
LEOLIN PRICE,
10 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3SU.
May 7.

From Father John Buckley

Sir, Your leading article, "Midnight thunder" (May 1) is a misinterpretation of republican-speak. You make no mention of the most important phrase in the IRA statement, that the Good Friday document marked "a significant development" (report, same day).

Surely what this is saying is that they accept the agreement, they back the political wing and direct their people towards a "yes" vote. It also indicates to me that the ceasefire will remain as long as does the agreement.

Whether we like it or not, decommissioning and cessation of violence will be determined by the released prisoners. If they can be encouraged to return to society with the purpose of ending violence and promoting the agreement, then decommissioning will be a formality.

Far from being thunder, the statement is a little ray of light in a dark sky.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BUCKLEY,
The Presbytery, Martin Street,
Bishop's Waltham, Southampton,
Hampshire SO32 1DN.
May 1.

From Miss Caroline Sheppard

Sir, Those of us who work in offices with "anti-bomb curtains" could add our votes in solidarity with the Irish peace referendum on May 22.

At an appointed time, perhaps, we could draw back our curtains and join those in Ireland who have seen the light.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE SHEPPARD
(Chief Adjudicator),
Parking Appeals Service,
New Zealand House,
80 Haymarket, SW1Y 4TE.
May 7.

Homework and TV

From Mr Stanley Silver

Sir, I disagree totally with Mr S. B. Tress (letter, May 2).

Surely his suggestion that the Government impose a one-and-a-half-hour TV "blackout" to enable children to do their homework is yet another example of a "nanny state"? Why should government take on the responsibility of a parent?

My children did their homework satisfactorily whilst I watched TV. They were allowed their TV time after the work was completed.

I believe no parent should abdicate to others the responsibility of controlling the children.

Yours truly,
S. SILVER,
3 Pagitts Grove,
Camlet Way, Hadley Wood,
Hertfordshire EN4 0NY.
May 3.

Credit owed to these 'dogs of war'

From Mr Giles Nixon

Sir, I first worked in Sierra Leone in the early 1960s, in the diamond industry, and I have closely followed the course of events in that country since then. I have been particularly interested, therefore, in your reports of the past few days and in today's leading article, "Cooked up".

In my view, Jeffrey Lee ("Give a dog of war a bad name", May 4) is correct to applaud the efforts to restore order between 1995 and 1997 by Executive Outcomes — the South African "military entrepreneurs" employed by President Kabbah.

Eighteen months ago I revisited the diamond deposits in Kono, some 300 miles north of Freetown, and witnessed at first hand what Executive Outcomes had achieved with only a handful of South African officers and a company or two of highly trained Namibian soldiers. I talked with Kono chiefs and elders, and heard the men of Executive Outcomes described as angels and saviours. My own military training allowed me to appreciate their discipline and fighting capabilities — so much so that I refuse to call them mercenaries.

This poor country, now in the depth of economic deprivation, was once a British protectorate. In those days, at the request of the Governor, a British Army unit would have done the job of Executive Outcomes and been summoned to help maintain law and order. If President Kabbah had called up such assistance from the Foreign Office, I have no doubt that he would have been refused. By default, employing outside professional help is now the only way that can work.

By failing openly to support President Kabbah, Britain and the Commonwealth have walked away from responsibility — a tragedy of which Britain cannot be proud.

Yours sincerely,
GILES NIXON,
Baytree,
Glen Auldyn, Ramsey,
Isle of Man IM7 2AQ.
May 8.

From Mr Colin McKelvie

Sir, By quoting A. E. Housman's celebrated *Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries*, Jeffrey Lee may have meant to imply that the poem referred to freebooting "dogs of war", of the type Lee describes as having fought in the Congo, Bosnia, etc.

Housman was, of course, being skilfully ironic. This "army of mercenaries" was in fact the professional British Army of 1914, which took such massive losses in the first battles of the Great War, before their ranks were swelled by the vast numbers of volunteers and conscripts recruited for the duration of hostilities.

Dismissed by the Kaiser as "a contemptible little army", those men were proud to be known as the "Old Contemptibles", and "their mercenary calling" was to serve as career soldiers in a standing peacetime army. They "saved the sum of things for pay" by holding the line against German aggression until reinforcements were recruited, trained and deployed, as Housman describes so poignantly in *A Shropshire Lad*.

I remain, Sir, etc,
COLIN McKELVIE,
Tundergarth House,
Lockerbie,
Dumfries and Galloway DG11 2PU.
May 5.

Abbey dismissal

From Mr Charles C. G. Taylor

Sir, In your leader of April 24, deploring the Church of England's handling of Dr Martin Neary's dismissal as Organist of Westminster Abbey, you said of the Dean of Westminster that "he has acted with neither Christian humility, nor in the interest of the Church's already wretched reputation for handling disputes".

Such a reputation is by no means the monopoly of the Church of England. The dispute at Westminster has a familiar ring for me, following my summary dismissal last year as organist and choirmaster of Crathie Kirk in Aberdeenshire.

Hitherto I have maintained a strict silence, apart from one statement issued through a lawyer and reproduced in your pages (March 17, 1997). I break this silence now, to voice my support for Dr Neary in a case of far greater importance than mine.

To date I have received no sensible explanation and have been offered neither reinstatement (which I did not seek), nor even an apology (which I did). I hope Dr Neary will receive both.

Mr Peter Giles [letter, May 2; see also letter, May 7] is right to warn about the future for choirs in churches. A few months after my removal, I learnt that the minister of Crathie had personally dismissed the majority of the choir. We should be grateful that members of the superb choir of Westminster Abbey have been spared.

It seems to me a sad state of affairs that time and again church leaders can appear to act with such little regard for natural justice.

Yours etc,
CHARLES C. G. TAYLOR,
Old Police Station,
Torphins,
Aberdeenshire AB31 4JQ.
May 6.

'Misery' of zoos

From Mr John Mein

Sir, Very little has changed since you published my letter on August 30, 1980, on zoos breeding animals to justify their captivity. Your report, "Rescue squad finds death and misery at Rome Zoo" (overseas news, May 1), highlights yet again the inane cruelty of keeping animals and birds imprisoned, often in solitary confinement for life, for human delight.

I received scores of replies to that letter, many correspondents persisting in the necessity to cage animals to ensure their survival. The public still go to view their misery; children know no better — adults should. Television offers us a far better view of wildlife than can ever be seen behind the misery of bars and concrete.

It should not be beyond the expertise of governments to ban the imprisonment of animals and birds in zoos, at least throughout the European Union.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MEIN,
30 Duns Tew, Nr Bicester OX6 4JS.

Mobile cinemas

From Miss Kate Taylor

Sir, The news that the Screen Machine is touring the Highlands and islands (report and leading article, May 5) is to be welcomed, but it is not, of course, Britain's first mobile cinema.

The earliest travelling picture shows were the fairground bioscopes which toured in the late 1890s. Audrey Field, in her book *Picture Palace* (Gentry Books, 1974), refers to travelling cinema vans used by the Ministry of Information during the Great War.

I have in my own collection a number of posters, which I found in East Anglia, for "cinema shows" provided by Mobile Movies and Acoustics, advertising films of the 1930s and 1940s such as *Flame* (starring Sydney Howard) and *Millions Like Us* (Patricia Roc and Anne Crawford).

Yours truly,
KATE TAYLOR
(Chairman, Mercia Cinema Society),
19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield,
West Yorkshire WF1 4AH.
kate@airtime.co.uk
May 5.

Wodehouse cad

From Mr Robin Simpson, QC

Sir, I read Anthony Quinton's article, "Why is Wodehouse so funny" (May 2), with great delight.

May I reassure him that the story of the stockbroker is indeed the work of the Master. It appears in *Heart of a Goof* (chapter 3, "Keeping in with Vosper") and refers to Bradbury Fisher, "one of America's most prominent tainted millionaires".

Having described that gentleman's conscience as "the trained and educated conscience of a man who had passed a large portion of his life in Wall Street", Wodehouse continues:
Many a time in the past, when an active operator on the Street, he had done things to the Small Investor which would have caused raised eyebrows in the fo'c'sle of a pirate sloop — and done them without a blush".

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN SIMPSON,
116 Station Road, Barnes, SW13 0NB.
May 2.

Rail punctuality

From the Director General of the Association of Train Operating Companies

Sir, Your leading article about the railways ("Taking the public for a ride", May 4) calls for a properly run, properly accountable service. The train operating companies would agree with that. But it is simply not true to say (as your leader did) that trains are "generally slower and less reliable" now than they were when run by British Rail.

The last year's results have to be seen in context: punctuality was still better overall than in the three years from 1993 to 1996. There was a massive improvement during 1996-97 — creating a high base against which performance is now measured. And although rail performance figures for the last year were disappointing after the improvements of earlier years, the evidence is that performance is now on the way up again.

It is also important to understand that both the companies you single out for particular criticism, Great Western and Thames Trains, use the congested Great Western main line and are having to run trains through what is effectively a construction site, particularly around London and Bristol. While we all welcome this huge investment in the future of the rail infrastructure, in the short term it results in speed restrictions (for which Railtrack has publicly and graciously apologised on posters displayed at rail stations).

Exaggerated reactions to each new set of statistics do nothing to further constructive debate about the future transport needs of the country. John Prescott's White Paper will go some way towards redressing decades of national obsession with the car, and support the clear public wish (evident from rising passenger figures) to make more use of an efficient, modernised rail network.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GORDON,
Director General,
Association of Train
Operating Companies,
The Podium,
1 Eversholt Street, NW1 1DN.
May 5.

Weekend Money letters, page 6I

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

The life and times of a marchioness

From Lieutenant-Commander R. C. Warwick, RNR (retd)

Sir, Readers of today's obituary of Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava might conclude that she was little more than a pretty socialite. They may like to share my own rather different memory of that beautiful woman with the red-gold hair and the heavenly smile, drawn from the bitter winter of 1940-41.

I well recall her as leading a group of Belfast ladies waiting on tables, cooking meals and washing the dishes at the Belfast Pollock Dock club for the Royal Naval Patrol Service seamen who manned the deep-sea anti-submarine escort trawlers, returning home from coastal escort and Western Ocean convoy work.

Maureen and her ladies made every man welcome back from the cruel and unforgiving sea, with its enemy aircraft and its U-boats. Showing that they cared for us of itself made it worthwhile.

Yours etc,
COLIN WARWICK,
Grove House, Silverhill Brake,
Rudgeway, Bristol BS35 3SJ.
May 4.

From Mr Robert A. Perkins

Sir, From 1934 till June 1939 I was First Footman to Emerald Lady Cunard (really Maud Alice Cunard) who in those days lived at 7 Grosvenor Square, corner of Brook Street.

I have thought about her guests at the famous lunch and dinner parties for which dear Emerald was famous, but I cannot recall the late Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava going to No 7. I do recall, however, Sir Henry "Chips" Channon and his charming wife, Lady Honor Channon, going there very frequently. Of course the Marchioness may have gone to Lady Cunard before I joined her staff, but I wonder if any of your readers know if she was acquainted with Lady Honor.

I didn't like Sir Henry Channon — he had no time for servants and he showed it — but his wife was very different. "Chips" Channon was very similar to Sir Thomas Beecham — another frequent visitor — who had no time for servants either. Very different to Sachie Sitwell — a real English gentleman — or even King Edward VIII, who was very nice to staff. Herr von Ribbentrop also, he was very polite. He went to Lady Cunard quite a lot: "Dearest Excellency", as she addressed him.

Well, I am coming up to 85 but am very interested in those far-off good days. After the war I went to Leeds Castle in Kent, where I caught up again with some of the Cunard guests, including Lord Margeson, "Chips" Channon, Geoffrey Lloyd and Lord Ivor Churchill.

Best wishes to you — and *The Times*.

Sincerely,
ROBERT A. PERKINS,
Flat 11, St Thomas House,
West Arbour Street, Stepney, E1 0PY.
May 5.

No free lunch

From Colonel David Whitaker

Sir, You report today that London lawyers are spending £70 million a year in restaurants giving business lunches or dinners.

Would I be naive in thinking that their guests are probably being charged at the hourly going rate for legal advice by their hosts whilst they are eating? If they are, then they would find it a great deal cheaper to pay for their own meals.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WHITAKER,
The Dower House, Chawton,
Nr Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SB.
May 4.

Highway tootery

From Mrs J. J. Kellagher

Sir, Does Mr W. Dixon Smith (letter, May 4) never drive on winding country lanes, that he wants to make sounding your horn illegal?

Yours faithfully,
J. J. KELLAGHER,
East Rowhorn,
Whitestone, Exeter EX4 2LQ.
May 5.

From Mr Michael Cusack

Sir, Motor car horns are far from redundant here. In an area disgracefully littered with animals heedlessly butchered on the roads, I have found that a quick toot of the horn has led to, among others, pheasants, linnets, muntjac deer and one (presumed escaped) European lynx removing themselves from my motor car's path and harm's way.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CUSACK,
Cromer Lodge South, Felbrigg Hall,
Felbrigg, Norfolk NR11 8PP.
May 4.

From Mr Colin Gower

Sir, There are already laws concerning the misuse of car horns. The trouble is too many motorists don't give two hoots.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN GOWER,
The Shrubbery, Fortis Way,
Huddersfield HD3 3WW.
colingower@compuserve.com
May 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Dorset and were received at Poole Station this morning by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (the Lord Digby) and the Mayor of Poole (Councillor Mrs Annette Brooke).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne, and were received by the Chairman of the Governors (Canon David Price), the Headteacher (Mr Simon Tong) and the Mayor of Wimborne Town Council (Mrs Minna Harvey).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the school and viewed the exhibition and display marking its Quincentenary.

Her Majesty later visited and opened Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester, and was received by the Chairman of the West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust (Mr Robin SeQueira) and the Mayor of Dorchester (Councillor John Antell).

His Royal Highness visited the Keep — the Military Museum of Devon and Dorset, Dorchester.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited Poundbury, were received by Mr Robert Ross (Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall) and viewed some of the newly-built houses.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later attended a Service in Sherborne Abbey to dedicate the Great West Window and were received by the Bishop of Sherborne and the Mayor (Councillor Ms Margaret Rehahn).

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 8: The Duke of York this evening attended the Closing Banquet of the Thirtieth Society of Experimental Test Pilots European Symposium at Manchester Town Hall and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Great Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Royal engagements

TODAY
Princess Alexandra, as Chancellor of Lancaster University and patron of the Ruskin Foundation, will open the Ruskin library at the university at 12.55.

TOMORROW
The Duke of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) and, as Patron, the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association, will take the Salute at the Cavalry memorial parade, at Hyde Park at 11.05.

Memorial service

The Right Rev William Stewart
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Right Rev William Stewart, Bishop of Taunton, was held yesterday in Wells Cathedral. The Bishop of Bath and Wells made the introduction, the Archdeacon of Wells led the prayers and the Archdeacon of Taunton read one of the lessons. The Dean of Wells also took part. A number of family and friends paid tribute and the Bishop of Norwich gave an address.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: John Brown, militant Abolitionist, Torrington, Connecticut, 1800; Sir James Barrie, dramatist and novelist, Kirriemuir, 1860; Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, London, 1874; Barbara Woodhouse, animal trainer, Dublin, 1910.

DEATHS: William Bradford, Pilgrim Father, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1657; Aldo Moro, five times Prime Minister of Italy, assassinated, Rome, 1978; Tenzing Norgay, Himalayan climber, Darjeeling, 1986.

Britain's first launderette opened in Queensway, 1949.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, yachtsman and philanthropist, Glasgow, 1850; Fred Astaire, dancer and actor, Omaha, Nebraska, 1899.

DEATHS: George Vancouver, explorer, Richmond, Surrey, 1798; Paul Revere, American patriot, Boston, Massachusetts, 1818; Joan Crawford, actress, New York, 1977; J.B. Morton (Beachcomber), satirist and historian, Worthing, 1979.

The Indian Mutiny began, 1857.

Churchill replaced Chamberlain as Prime Minister, 1940.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Richard Adams, author, 78; Mr Alan Bennett, dramatist, 64; the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, former Bishop of Derby, 82; Miss Nina Campbell, interior designer, 53; Dr John Cook, Principal, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, 58; Lord Cooke of Thorndon, 72; Mr Nigel Dougias, tenor, broadcaster and writer, 69; Mr Terry Downes, boxer, 62; Mr Albert Finney, actor, 62; Mr Carlo Maria Giulini, conductor, 84; Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, former Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh, 85; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 60; Miss Glenda Jackson, MP, and actress, 62; Mr Billy Joel, singer, 49; Sir Francis Kennedy, Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, 72; General Sir Peter Leng, 73; Lord Lloyd of Berwick, 69; Mr Gavin Lyall, author, 66; Lord Justice MacDermott, 71; Miss Geraldine McEwan, actress, 66; Professor Alistair MacFarlane, FRS, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 67; Mr Brian McMaster, director and chief executive, Edinburgh International Festival, 55; Sir Philip Mansfield, former diplomat, 72; Sir David Plastow, former chairman, Inchcape, 66; Mr Patrick Ryecart, actor, 46; Mr V.L. Sankey, chief executive, Reckitt and Colman, 49; Admiral Sir Victor Smith, 85.

TOMORROW: Mr W.F.W. Bischoff, chairman, Schroders, 57; Bono, singer, 38; Mr William Cash, MP, 58; Sir Brian Corby, former chairman, Prudential Corporation, 69; Major-General Peter Davies, Director-General, RSPCA, 60; the Marquess of Downshire, 69; Mr Jonathan Edwards, athlete, 32; Major-General Edward Fursdon, defence consultant, 73; Sir Edward Gardner, QC, former MP, 86; Mr Christopher Gent, chief executive, Vodafone Group, 50; Sir Basil Kelly, former Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 78; Mr Justice Laws, 53; Miss Maureen Lipman, actress, 52; Sir William Lithgow, industrialist, 64; Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Mullens, 62; Lord Mustill, FBA, 67; Sir David Orr, former chairman, Unilever, 76; Sir Angus Paton, FRS, civil engineer, 93; Mr Bruce Raymond, former jockey, 55; the Earl of Rothes, 66; Mr Michael Shea, former press secretary to the Queen, 60; Lord Smith, 84; the Duke of Sutherland, 83; Mrs Barbara Taylor Bradford, author, 65; Sir Denis Thatcher, 83; Sir Duncan Watson, former president, World Blind Union, 72.

Malvern Spring Show

Theatrical touch to a cottage garden

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE garden designer Julian Dowle, from Newent, Gloucestershire, has introduced a Chelsea Flower Show-style garden to the Malvern Spring Garden Show, giving a much-needed boost to the outside exhibits.

His theatrical canalside garden, reminiscent of a lock-keeper's cottage plot, is among a collection of inspirational show gardens, a welcome new initiative for this event. "I have been helping to get Show Gardens started at Malvern and suggested creating them in a specially designed area around a village green," said Dowle, nine times a Chelsea gold medal winner.

Other gardens around the green include an elegant plot with a subtropical atmosphere for outdoor living from Citroen UK, which uses solar power to run fountains and lighting.

Collective Skills, of Pershore, Worcestershire, a team of professionals from the horticultural industry, have created a show garden designed for those who work from home. Complete with secluded office, the garden is a place to relax and entertain.

The Courtyard Gardens, now well established at Malvern, are of a much higher standard than in previous years and range from a Mediterranean-style courtyard created by Lords of the Manor, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire, to an oriental-style garden from N.J. Landscapes of Stroud, Gloucestershire. This gold medal garden features topiary and other trained plants.

The Lynn Downes Award for the best floral exhibit has been won by Southfield Nurseries, of Malton, Lincolnshire, for a brilliant display of flowering cactus. One of their own new mammillaria hybrids is featured: *Mammillaria Carmenae* "Jewel Hybrid" with flowers in shades of pink, set against dense mounts of gold or white spines. The exhibit has also been awarded a gold medal.

Spring is very much reflected in the floral marquee with fresh new foliage and delicate flowers. Hostas, ferns and other woodland plants abound. Park Green Nurseries, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, are featuring new American hostas, such as "Second Wing" with dark green leaves, a shade which is currently popular in America.

A magnificent display of meconopsis or blue poppies has been staged among ferns by Reginald Kaye, Waithman Nurseries, of Silverdale, Lancashire. They range from sky blue *Meconopsis Sheldonii* to its purple blue form "Ormswell".

Rickards Hardy Ferns, of Tenbury Wells, have created a fresh green oasis with a collection of species and cultivars, including currently popular tree ferns. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

One of the most colourful exhibits is a collection of carnivorous plants from Marston Exotics, of Madley, Herefordshire, which includes part of the national collection of Sarracenias.

Other highlights of the show, which opened yesterday, include the Alpine Garden Society's show (Saturday only), the British Cactus and Succulent Society's show (Sunday only) and floral arrangements.

The show, jointly organised by the Royal Horticultural Society and the Three Counties Agricultural Society and now at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, is open today from 9am to 6pm and tomorrow from 9am to 5pm.

Monsignor Alfred Gilbey

A Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Monsignor Alfred Gilbey will be celebrated in Trinity College Chapel at noon on Saturday, May 30, 1998. Non-Resident Members of the University and others wishing to attend should apply to the Chaplain, Fisher House, Guildhall Street, Cambridge, CB2 3NH.

Lecture

Corporation of London
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff David Howard and Mrs Howard, were present at a lecture delivered by Mr Robert E. Rubin, the American Secretary of the Treasury. The Corporation of London was the host. Afterwards a luncheon was held at the Mansion House. Among those present were: The Ambassador of Luxembourg, the American Ambassador, the High Commissioner for Canada, Lord Strathclyde, Lord Boardman, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, Lord Hollick, Lord Hambro, Lord McNally, Lord Taverne, Lord Bagri, Baroness Ludford, Lord Newby, Lord Randall of St Budeaux, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Terence Burns, Sir Nigel Wicks, Sir John Kerr, Sir Christopher Benson, Sir John Craven, Sir Brian Moffat, the Chairman of the Stock Exchange, the UK Head of the European Commission, the Chairman of LIFFE, leading figures from the City, Members of Parliament, Aldermen, Members of the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London.

Service dinners

The United Kingdom/Netherlands Amphibious Force
The 25th Anniversary of the formation of the UK/NL Amphibious Force was celebrated in Portsmouth yesterday onboard *HMS Ocean* and *HNLMS Rotterdam*. The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, received the guests. Among those present were: The Right Hon George Robertson, MP, Mr J J C Voorhoeve, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, Mr J C Gmelich-Meijling, General Sir Charles Guthrie, General H G B van den Breeman, Admiral L Kroon, General Sir Ian Gourlay, Sir Richard Mottram, Dr D J Barth, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Vice-Admiral G G Hoof, Major General D A S Pennefather, RM, Major General E C Klop, Commodore P D Stone, RN, Brigadier R H G Fulton, Sir Christopher France, Miss R Spencer, Mr J H R D van Roijen, General R I Neal, USMC.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards
Colonel J.I. Pocock, Colonel of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, presided at the annual dinner of the regiment held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
Colonel R.L. Cariss, Deputy Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for Warwickshire, presided at a ladies' dinner night given by the Pusilier Officers' Club, Royal Warwickshire, last night at the Council House, Birmingham.

Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire
Major-General E.H.A. Beckett, Colonel of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, presided at a regimental dinner held last night at Worsley Barracks, York.

The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)
Colonel T.C. Villiers, The Royal Hong Kong Regiment, was the principal guest at the annual dinner held by the Officers' Club of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) last night at the Army and Navy Club. Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow presided.

The Queen's Flight Association
Air Commodore Sir Archie Winskill was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of The Queen's Flight Association held last night at RAF Benson. Squadron Leader R.H. Stanton presided.

RAF Bentley Priory
The Directorate of Air Staff held a ladies' guest night last night at RAF Bentley Priory. Air Commodore C.M. Chambers, Director Air Staff, was the principal speaker and the departing guest was Wing Commander N.J. Watson. Wing Commander R.G. Leonard presided.

Dinner

Launderers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the annual ladies' dinner of the Launderers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Richard Orford, Master, assisted by the wardens, received the guests. Major-General A.P.W. MacLellan was the principal speaker.

Marriages

Dr A.D. MacBean and Dr U.M. Graham
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 2, 1998, at the Cathedral Church of Sts Peter and Paul, Clifton, Bristol, between Dr Andrew David MacBean and Dr Una Graham, both of Redland, Bristol.

A weekend reception was held at Thornbury Castle, near Bristol.

Mr C.J. Paton and Miss R.F. Wise
The marriage took place on Mayday, in Oxford, of Christopher James, son of Michael Paton, of Willington, Cheshire, and Jandy Spurway, of Moreton-in-Marsh, and Rebecca Frances, daughter of Patrick Wise, of Clanfield, Oxfordshire, and Rosemary Wise, of Finstock.

Mr P.B. Willitts and Miss S.M.T. King
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 2, at St Mary's Church, Barnes, of Peter Barnaby, son of Mr and Mrs Rig Willitts, of Barnes, to Sophia Madeleine Thérèse, daughter of Professor Geoffrey King, of Paris, and Dr Anna King, of Cambridge. The Rev Eleanor Rance officiated and Mr Peter Mitchell gave an address.

The bride was attended by Miss Hester Duffy and Miss Sarah Mackey. Mr Nicholas Lovell was best man.

A reception was held at Templeton, Roehampton, and the honeymoon is being spent in Thailand and Cambodia.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.J. Argyle and Dr C.M. Helan
The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Maurice Argyle, of Wootton, Kent, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Helan, of Derby.

Mr K.J. Batey and Miss T. Wright
The engagement is announced between Karl, son of Mr H. Batey and Mrs C.D. O'Neill, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire, and Tracy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.C. Wright, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Major S.W. Bennett, RLC, and Miss L. Jamieson
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr Alan Bennett, of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Eileen Bennett, of Abbeydale, Gloucestershire, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Jamieson, of Crookham Eastfield, Northumberland.

Mr C.E. Birch and Miss K.A. Strover
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mrs Birch and the late Mr Michael Birch, of Palmers Cross Farm, Staffordshire, and Kathryn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Strover, of Sudbury, Suffolk.

Mr G.P.St.J. Bonnet and Miss R.C. Hunt
The engagement is announced between Gavin, elder son of Major General and Mrs Peter Bonnet, of East Anstey, North Devon, and Rachel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hunt, of the British Consulate, Istanbul.

Dr T.D. Coates and Miss V.J. Burford
The engagement is announced between Tony Douglas, son of Ruth Coates and the late Terry Coates, of Eastbourne, Sussex, and Victoria Joan, daughter of Ann and Paul Burford, of Nottingham.

Mr J.P. Draffan and Miss L. Wynton
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Draffan, of St Marychurch, Devon, and Lindsay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Wynton, of Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

Mr C. Henry and Miss Z. Ellison
The engagement is announced between Christian, elder son of Sir Denis Henry, OBE, QC, and Lady Henry, of Warlingham, Surrey, and Zigi, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ellison, of Lympne, Kent.

Mr S.P. Lunn and Dr E.M. Elson
The engagement is announced between Stuart, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Derek Lunn, of Menston, West Yorkshire, and Elspeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Elson, of Worplesdon, Surrey.

Mr R.T. Markham and Miss K.J.M. Farquhar
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Markham, of Dibden Purlieu, and Kate, younger daughter of the late Mr Peter Farquhar and of Mrs Lloyd Cromwell Griffiths, of Stanway, Gloucestershire.

Mr D.C. Thomas and Miss C.A. Stevenson
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Thomas, of Wrexham, North Wales, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Stevenson, of Lewisham, London.

Mr D.L. Rees and Miss G.C. Stevenson
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Adrian Rees, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and Georgina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Stevenson, of Lewisham, London.

Dr D.J. Titterton and Miss C.R. Daniel
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs James Titterton, of Matlock, Derbyshire, and Camilla, daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony Daniel, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr D.S. Toube and Miss S.L. Cohen
The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs T.P. Toube, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.P. Cohen.

Mr J.A. Upson and Miss S.J.T. Brett
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs John Upson, of Maidford, Northamptonshire, and Suzie, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Adrian Brett, of Barford St Michael, Oxfordshire.

Dr M. Waltham and Dr C. Bottomley
The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr Raymond Waltham, of South Littleton, Worcestershire, and Mrs Doreen Walton, of Sutton Coldfield, and Cecilia, elder daughter of Mr Peter and the Right Hon Mrs Virginia Bottomley, of Westminster.

Mr A.M. Ward and Miss A.J. Beavan
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs George Ward, of Mill Hill, London, and Amanda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Beavan, of Newport, South Wales.

Mr G.J. Williams and Miss S.F. Green
The engagement is announced between Gerard, son of Mr and Mrs John Williams, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Green, of Thorpe Bay, Essex.

LIZ TAYLOR SURVIVES THE SCRUTINY

The lady looks in great shape. Under the scrutiny of a first night audience on the most spectacular Broadway opening night in years, she flounced in, beautifully coiffured, carefully made-up and looking as dangerous as a battleship. The lady, by the way, was Elizabeth Taylor, making her stage debut, the theatre was the Martin Beck, and the occasion, with police, security guards, and fans outside as plentiful as a small rally, was the revival of Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes*.

Miss Taylor is a courageous, adventurous woman. Here she is making what is virtually her stage debut. She did indeed play the walk-on part of Helen of Troy many years ago in Oxford for Neville Coghill, while her former husband, Richard Burton, played the title role in *Dr Faustus*.

This is the sort of occasion that weakens even the staunchest of hearts, and, in addition, she had apparently had some throat ailment that, at one time, even threatened to cancel the first night performance. Yet Miss Taylor is a trouper — it turns out that she is probably more of a trouper than an actress. Miss Hellman's boulevard melodrama is not very good and never has been — not even in Mike Nichols's stylishly elegant revival at Lincoln Center some fourteen years ago. The "Little Foxes" of the title are the Hubbard clan — the biblical reference is to the Song of Solomon — where the little foxes are those who "spoil the vineyards".

The play is set in a small Southern town at precisely the turn of the century and the plot on the machinations of the wicked Hubbard family, led by the ruthlessly stately Regina and the effortlessly evil Ben, to capitalise a business deal developing a new cotton mill. The obvious intricacies of the obviously well-constructed plot weave mechanically, as sister, brothers, and younger son try to outvie one another in venality while the clan's in-laws, particularly Regina's dying husband Horace, try to outwit them.

Regina, created by Tallulah Bankhead on stage and Bette Davis in the subsequent movie, is a great vehicle for an actress of a certain style and grandeur. It is, of course, acting in the grand mannerism, full of tortuous twists and concealed emotions.

Austin Pendleton has staged the play with considerable finess, but Andrew Jackness's setting looks uncomfortably like unimaginative summer stock. In any event, the audience was there to savour the Taylor legend. Yes, she does look good. No, her acting is not particularly well adapted — as yet — to the stage. The voice is too monotonously pitched (although this could be due to her much-publicised vocal ailment) and the gestures are a thought too contrived. She moves more with grace than naturalness, and her southern accent sounds as though she were belatedly testing for *Gone With The Wind*. Yet there is a magnificent presence here, the sheer punchy aura of stardom that is totally undeniable and unmistakable. When she walks on the stage it lights up, and the audience basks in its reflection . . .

CLIVE BARNES

ON THIS DAY

May 9, 1981

For her Broadway debut, Elizabeth Taylor's age, 49, was proudly displayed on the playbill outside the theatre. Cliver Barnes, the critic, detectedthe unmistakable aura of stardom.

JOHN BRYSON/SYGMA



Elizabeth Taylor in her dressing room before the show

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

"They were all lost in amazement and praised God; filled with awe they said, "The things we have seen today are beyond belief." Luke 5 : 26

BIRTHS

ASTOR - On April 23rd 1998 in Portland, Maine, USA, to Alex Ryan and Henry Astor, a son.

BURTLING - On May 4th, to Sarah (née Hunt) and Tim, a daughter, Imogen, a sister for Clem and Minna.

COOMBER - On Friday May 1st 1998 at Grantham and District Hospital, to Cheryl (née King) and Brian, a son, Aidan Bryn, a brother for Bethany.

de MERVEILLE - On Thursday April 9th in Paris, to Caroline (née Symington) and Laurent, twins (Louis and Laura).

FOWLER-WATT - On May 7th 1998, to Duncan and Karen, a beautiful son, Adam Sebastian, a brother for Laura.

GILLESPIE - On April 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Sally (née Powell) and Robert, a daughter, Elizabeth Susannah Twite, a sister for Imogen and Isabel.

LEES - On May 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Lisa (née Kite) and Genninus, a daughter, Mazzie Louise.

OSGOOD - On 3rd May 1998, to Angela and Matthew, a son, Joshua Daniel Alan.

PESS - On Tuesday, May 5th, 1998, to Rosanna (née Palmer) and Edward, a son (Jacob John Gwenan).

STANDAGE - On May 3rd 1998 at Wexham Park Hospital to Sarah (née Rickson) and Michael, a son Benjamin Luke Daly, a brother for Abigail, Jessica and Adam.

STEEMSON-KAPOSI - On Monday 20th April, to Esther Kaposi and Loyd Steemson, a beautiful daughter, Tabitha Lucy Steemson, a sister for Molly and a cousin for Ella and Jay.

SWIRE - On Tuesday 5th May 1998, to Camilla (née Husband) and Barnaby, a daughter.

WILLIS - On 27th April 1998, to Dr Sheila (née Trumper) and Matthew, a son Thomas Ramsey.

WYATT - On May 6th, to Clare (née Connell) and Robert, a son, James Robert Dinham.

DEATHS

ADEY - Doreen peacefully on May 5th 1998 at Aldbourne Nursing Home aged 86 years. The funeral service will take place at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne, Wiltshire on Monday May 11th at 11 am. Enquiries to Thomas Free Funeral Directors, tel: (01672) 512110.

ARCHER - Cherrie on 6th May 1998 peacefully in hospital, aged 76 years. So much loved and adored by Robin and her sons, Neville and Colin, by her seven grandchildren and all her other relatives and friends. Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday 13th May in West Chapel, Putney Vale Cemetery, London SW15 at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only but donations to RNLI c/o Sanders & Sons, 35 High Street, Barnes SW13 9LF.

ASHWITH - Colin Orkney Ashwith died peacefully at home on 4th May 1998 in Stoney Stanton, Leicester, previously of Newport, Gwent. Aged 78. Much loved father of Chris and Diane. The funeral will take place on Tuesday May 12th at The Heart of England Crematorium, Bentborough Way, Nuneaton, Warks. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for The British Red Cross c/o G. Bellas & Co, Ltd., Funeral Directors, 75 Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, Leics. Tel: 01455 637457.

AUTY - Phyllis (Miss McBurnie) on 30th April aged 68. Private funeral at Reading Crematorium 15th May at 2pm followed by Thanksgiving at Quaker Meeting House, 45 Northfield End, Henley-on-Thames at 3.15 pm. No flowers but if desired donations to Henley Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends c/o A.S. Walker, Blyth House, 158 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1EA, tel: (01491) 413494.

BARKOFF - Jane (née Hollingdale) on 4th May 1998, peacefully, in hospital in Perth, Western Australia. Wife of the late George Barkoff FRCS and dearly loved mother of Alexandra, Peter, Lisa and Gregory, devoted grandmother of Kyra, Philippa, Damian, Sacha, Jessica and Alexis and dear sister of Nadine and Tessa. The funeral has taken place in Perth. Any letters c/o Miss E. Otton, 1 High Street, Wellow, Bath BA2 8QQ.

BATES - On May 8,1998, in her 101st year, peacefully at the Worplesdon Hill Nursing Home, Mary Vera (Molly) née Colcutt, widow for 37 years of Lt.Col. Pat Bates and much loved by both families. Private cremation at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday May 13 at 3.30 p.m. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Woking Funeral Services 01483 77 22 66.

BEASNEL - (Gibson) Dolores on 25th April 1998 suddenly whilst working in Prague aged 54 years. Beloved mother of Pavel and Matthew, daughter of Rita and Nick and sister of John, Paul, Teresa, Bernard and Rosaleen. Funeral Monday May 11th at 11 am at St Thomas More R.C. Church, Bradford-on-Avon. A Memorial Service will be held in London at a later date.

BENGY - Henry Walter suddenly at home in Bromley on 3rd May 1998. Funeral Service at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday 14th May at 2.30pm.

BOOTH - Beatrice (Betty) Phyllis. On 1st May peacefully at home, after a long illness. Funeral Service at Wolvercote Cemetery, North Oxford (nr. Five Mile Drive), Thursday 14th May 2 pm and after at Overford Farm, Wytham. All friends and family are warmly invited. Enquiries to 01865 512913.

BOWES - Ernest Ward, the Revd. Peacefully on 6th May. Aged 93. Beloved husband of Marjorie. Service 1.45pm at St Michaels Church, Bishops Cleeve Thursday 14th May, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to C.M.S. c/o Mason & Stokes, 64 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham GL52 6AH.

CLARK - Kathleen Mary (Kate) peacefully on May 5th 1998 at St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, Hackney. A dearly loved friend. Funeral Service 2.30 pm on Wednesday May 13th at St Clement Danes, Strand, London. Donations if desired to St Joseph's Hospice. Enquiries T. Cribb & Sons FD, tel: (0171) 476-1856.

COOPER - Margaret Olga, née Lawrence, of Allen, Stourcastle. Died 3rd May 1998. Beloved wife of Kenneth. No flowers please but donations if wished to St Margaret's Somerset Hospice Taunton TA1 5HA, whose staff showed the greatest care. Funeral at St Andrew's Church 4.15 pm Tuesday 12th May.

GILES - Patricia, very much loved wife of Tim and adored mother of Martin, Dawn and Richard, died peacefully on 1st May 1998. Sadly missed by all her close family and friends.

GRIFFITHS - Granville died peacefully on May 6th at Cromwell Hospital. Devoted and loving stepfather to Paul and Kirsty and much loved husband of Catherine. He will be greatly missed by us all. Cremation at Putney Vale, London SW15, Friday 15th May at 2.30 pm.

INGHAM - Dorothy Ann died on 5th May, wife of Harry, mother of Susan, Michael and Carlton. Neddfa.

JONES - Gemlint. Loving husband of Wanda and father of Jezebel. A happy marriage of 49 years. Died peacefully on 3rd May 1998. Funeral will be held at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, London N2 on 12th May at 3 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to the Kirkman Consort Society, 110 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 8HX.

KNIGHT - Kay, wife of the late Lt. Col. Bob Knight (Singapore/Pakistan), died on May 1st 1998 aged 79 years. No flowers please, but donations to Malcolm Rotta Undertakers, 16 Roydon Road, Lambourne, Berkshire.

MacFIE - Colonel H.S. (Betty) TD, WRAC. On 5th May, peacefully at Winston Nursing Home, Nether Wallop, aged 95. Much loved aunt and great-aunt. Sadly missed by her many friends and relatives. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30 pm on Thursday 14th May at St Andrew's Church, Nether Wallop, Hants.

PFEIFFER - On 6th May 1998 Tom of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, dearly loved and loving husband of Jean. Much loved by all his family. The Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St James the Great, Chipping Campden on Wednesday 13th May at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Any donations to Campden House Nursing by notifying collection or to the Funeral Director A.E. Bennett & Sons, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6EE.

SELBY - Rowena of Mellsham, Wiltshire, formerly of Chirton, died at home peacefully on May 6th 1998 aged 84 years. Funeral Service Thursday May 14th 1 pm at St Michael's Parish Church, Mellsham. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for British Heart Foundation c/o D.J. Bewley, ID, 264 Chiltern Street, Mellsham, Wiltshire SN12 6LS.

WAINWRIGHT - Marion Garaway of Langton Herring, Dorset. Dearly loved wife of Barney and devoted mother of Paul and Henry. Treasured daughter of Fred and Kathleen and dear sister of Mike. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Funeral at St Peter's Church, Langton Herring, on Thursday 14th May at 12 noon. Flowers/Enquiries to Cotton and Sons, 24A Trinity Street, Weymouth. (01305) 767676. Donations if desired to RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset.

WALLIS - Jean on May 7th peacefully at her home in Chesterfield aged 81 years. Beloved wife of George and dearest mother of Stewart and Zillah. Private cremation. A Memorial Service will be held at Old Brampton Church on Friday May 22nd at 2.30 pm. Any enquiries to Hattersleys Funeral Directors, tel: (01246) 232820.

WALLOP - Mary Kathleen (née Best) on May 5th 1998 at Lyngstrome. Widow of John and mother of Mark and Rachel. Funeral Service at 2pm on Friday May 15th at St Michael's Church, Farway. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Save the Children c/o Crewe & Son Funeral Directors, Tower Street, Exmouth EX8 1NT.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

JEFFERISS - A Memorial Service for Dr. F.J.G. Jefferiss will be held at 3 pm on Thursday 21st May at St Mary's Hospital Chapel, Praed Street, London W2.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

TAIT - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sir James Tait, Principal of the Northampton College of Advanced Technology 1957-1966, and Vice Chancellor of The City University 1966-1974, will be held in the Chapel of St Faith (in the crypt), St Paul's Cathedral, on Friday, 15th May, at 11 am. Would those wishing to attend please inform the Vice Chancellor's Office, City University, by telephone 0171-477-8002 or by fax 0171-477-8561.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BRIDELL - David. In constant loving memory of my darling husband who died 10th May 1989. "Mens Conscia Recti." Denise.

LEBUS - Angela Mary, greatly missed but lovingly remembered.

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OBITUARIES

FRANK WOOTTON

Frank Wootton, OBE, aviation artist, died on April 21 aged 83. He was born on July 30, 1914.



Battle over London, Frank Wootton's vision of the events of September 15, 1940, courtesy of Victor Gauntlett

NO RAF officers' mess ever looks complete without at least one painting by Frank Wootton on its walls. Widely regarded as Britain's leading aviation artist, he made his name in the Second World War, portraying for posterity the air battles over Europe and the Far East.

Yet his first attempt to serve as a war artist, shortly after being called up in 1940, failed completely. Already an award-winning painter and the author of *How to Draw Aircraft*, he was nevertheless turned down by a committee chaired by Kenneth Clark, and sent instead to train as an RAF fitter. It is said that Clark always resented his eventual success.

He partially owed this success to Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory. Unimpressed by the official war artists who made his aircraft look like "bees' bellies", Leigh-Mallory chanced upon Wootton with relief. Leigh-Mallory knew what he liked, which was Wootton's representational approach, every rivet in place. Slicing through the red tape, he gave Wootton the job of recording the RAF's part in the D-Day invasion, and dispatched him across the Channel.

He had several narrow escapes. On one occasion, enemy shrapnel ripped through the canvas on which he was working. Unscathed, Wootton patched up the tear and carried on. Another close shave was still more remarkable. Leigh-Mallory was transferred to the Far East and chose Wootton to accompany his staff. Wootton postponed his departure at the last moment, leaving Leigh-Mallory and the others to fly without him. He heard later that all had been killed when their aircraft crashed in the Alps.

He subsequently flew to Burma, however, and spent the last year of the war there. Returning after VJ-Day, he then resumed his civilian career as a freelance artist, his reputation greatly enhanced.

Frank Antony Albert Wootton, who was born at Milford, Hampshire, had wanted from his earliest childhood to be an artist. His father, a Merchant Navy officer, was quite shocked, while his schoolmaster made a caustic remark about "starving in a garret".

But young Frank, whose mother died when he was eight, won a scholarship to Eastbourne Art College, where he carried off the college's gold medal and a travelling fellowship. The fellowship took him to Germany, where he made such an impression with his sketches that he was invited to paint murals in a church.

He worked in London as a commercial artist before the war, including a spell with Shell, before going freelance and receiving his first commissions to paint aircraft. Returning to his studio after the war, Wootton did some work for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in Iran and accepted a burgeoning list of commissions from the aviation industry. He also developed his talent in other directions, including landscapes and equestrian studies.

It was Sir Alfred Munnings, an early admirer, who advised him to concentrate on horses for financial reasons. Wootton, who loved horses and riding anyway, quickly perfected his technique. His painstaking attention to detail was much admired, and owners said that he captured the character of each horse. In one hunt scene he depicted, a huntsman claimed that he could identify every hound.

Exhibitions of his paintings were held throughout the world, including a 12-month show at the National Museum of Air and Space, Washington, 15 years ago. He also designed china and even the interior of King Ibn Saud's private jet, while at the same time turning out picture after picture at his Sussex studio. He was the archetypal professional, disciplined and uncomplaining, always putting work first.

As a young man he had been an enthusiastic motorcyclist and car driver, taking part in the Monte Carlo Rally. Although essentially a reserved man, he loved the company of friends. But he left himself little time for recreation, even pottering off to his studio on Christmas Day. Despite suffering from cancer, he was still sketching away until the end.

But Wootton would always find time to help his old college of art, stopping work to give guidance and advice whenever he was asked for it. Perhaps not even he knew quite how many pictures he produced. Many thousands of signed prints must also have been sold — sometimes to help local charities.

He spoke with disarming modesty about his talent. "It's quite simple really," he would say. "All you need is the right amount of the right colour in the right place." Nor did he indulge in aesthetic affectation. A very fit man who never looked his age, he would work in a crisp white shirt and RAF tie, while his spotless studio would have passed any barrack room inspection. He was hugely amused not long ago when two of his sketches turned up on the BBC's *Antiques Road Show*. His many books included *How to Draw Cars*, *The Aviation Art of Frank Wootton*, *At Home in the Sky*, *The Landscape Paintings of Frank Wootton* and *Frank Wootton: Fifty years of Aviation Art*. He was the founder president of the Guild of Aviation Artists.

Despite lobbying from his friends in Whitehall, it was not until 1995 that Frank Wootton was appointed OBE. He was delighted, especially by the citation, which read "For services to the RAF". That was the recognition he most cared about.

Frank Wootton's marriage to his first wife Eileen was dissolved. He is survived by his second wife Virginia ("Jinny"), whom he married in 1958, and by a son and daughter from his first marriage and a son and daughter from his second.

SYBIL CONNOLLY

Sybil Connolly, fashion designer, died on May 6 aged 77. She was born on January 24, 1921.

SYBIL CONNOLLY virtually invented the idea of Irish fashion — now a thriving industry — and her enthusiasm and determination ensured that her designs reached an international audience. Within a few years of her first collection, she had risen to perhaps the most glamorous possible opportunity for a couturier, and was dressing Jackie Kennedy, with whom she became friends. Although she had been born in Wales, she was helped, no doubt, by her soft brogue and by American sentimentality about all things supposedly Irish.

The daughter of an Irish father and a Welsh mother, Sybil Connolly began work in 1938 with Bradley's, the London dressmakers. There, in her early years as a dogsbody, she held the pins at fittings for Queen Mary. She also worked on the trousseau of Princess Marina, before she became Duchess of Kent.

She then moved to Dublin, and found work with Jack Clarke at his fashionable clothes shop, Richard Alan. Her break came in 1952, when the shop's French designer left, and she produced a range of her own.

Connolly did not shock, but she wowed. Unlike today's, her designs were discreet rather than revolutionary, and she owed a good deal to older designers such as Christian Dior, but she notably introduced new, characteristically Irish materials into *haute couture*. She was famous for her use of tweed, flannel, lace and linen. Her Donegal tweeds used new bright colours, she made petticoats and quilted skirts in flannel, and took linen to the White House. By 1956 her American exports were worth $180,000.

Connolly had been making clothes for herself for several years — and was blessed with a graceful figure to show them off — and this led to work for individual clients, such as Sheila Lady Dunsany. Connolly was quick to grasp at any publicity for her dresses, which were notable for their elegance. She dressed debutantes, brides and the aristocracy — and as ever in the frock game, it proved the way to the top.

In 1953 she used Dunsany Castle as the backdrop for a collection to show to American buyers on their way to the Paris shows, and she was swiftly invited to the United States. There, she was enormously fêted, with features in *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Her most distinctive creation was a linen dress made from pleated gentlemen's handkerchiefs, dyed in rich colours and sometimes banded in satin. The first of these — fetchingly called "First Love" — had some 5,000 pleats, and caused a great stir. One customer, Lady Brooke, remembered being photographed in such a number by Cecil Beaton, and then giving away the handkerchiefs to her boyfriends (who evidently caught a lot of colds).

Immaculate, discreet and courteous, Sybil Connolly charmed her customers as well as flattering them with her designs. By the mid 1950s her clients included the Elizabeth Taylor and Merle Oberon. Jackie Kennedy was painted in a Connolly dress for her official White House portrait. In 1957 she set up on her own in the exclusive Merrion Square.

Connolly, however, did not keep up with the times — nor did she want to. In 1972 she told an interviewer that she could not understand "why young people today set out so deliberately to make themselves look so awful". She was not cut out for the age of punk.

But she continued to be in demand by the more discerning customers at Tiffany's in New York, where she was a consultant, and she later worked in interior design, and wrote three books on style.



Connolly, right, arranging a classic Irish linen dress

GENE RAYMOND

Gene Raymond, American film actor, died on May 3 aged 89. He was born on August 13, 1908.

FOR ALL his handsome, blond good looks which appeared eminently to qualify him as a matinée idol, Gene Raymond never really made it in films as more than a leading man of second features. Teamed with beautiful women he certainly often was — notably Dolores del Rio and his wife Jeanette MacDonald. But in both cases it was the woman who held centre screen. Certainly Raymond was never as famous as his celebrated wife. Perhaps he was almost *too* good-looking. There was an element of insipidity about his model-like, regular features which when they were seen in juxtaposition with those of a pretty woman in lingering screen kisses, made him seem an unlikely participant in such high-temperature activities.

Yet his marriage to MacDonald was a successful and enduring one by any standards, let alone the ephemeral mores of Hollywood. He met her when she was at the height of her fame as one half of a singing partnership with Nelson Eddy, a duo still reckoned the most popular in Hollywood's history. They were married in 1937 — and stayed married until her death in 1965.

Gene Raymond was born Raymond Guion in New York. Acting beckoned him from an early age. He went to the New York Professional Children's School and first walked out on to the stage at the age of five. By the age of 12 he had made his debut on Broadway.

He had some success there, notably in a two-year run of *Cradle Snatchers*, alongside Humphrey Bogart, in the 1920s. But Hollywood soon beckoned, as it did to many New York stage actors at the outset of the era of talking pictures. At the same time it transformed his somewhat exotic but undeniably Gallic-sounding name into the more all-American Gene Raymond, when he arrived in Los Angeles in 1931.

He did not lack leading ladies: Sylvia Sidney in *Ladies of the Big House* (1931) and *Behold My Wife* (1934); Bette Davis in *Ex-Lady* (1932); and Carole Lombard in *Brief Moment* (1933) among many others. But he seemed always doomed to dwell in the shadow of women of greater magnetism than himself. This tendency was seen at its most marked in *Flying Down To Rio* (1933), a pleasant frolic in which he played an aviator who is fortunate enough to fly the glamorous Dolores del Rio down to Rio de Janeiro in the intimacy of a two-seater plane. Witty though his performance was he was, alas, blown off the screen by his sultry — and shapely — co-star.

KOBAL COLLECTION



Raymond lands the job of piloting the delectable Dolores del Rio in *Flying Down to Rio*, 1933

An exception to this fare and this type of role was Raymond's participation in that Hollywood curio, *Zoo in Budapest*, which came out in 1933. This offered him a poignant role as a young man who loves wild animals; but he was never able to capitalise on his undoubted ability to portray slightly off-beat characters. Such movies as *Zoo in Budapest* were simply not Hollywood stock-in-trade.

After his marriage to Jeanette MacDonald, Raymond tended to be known simply as "Jeanette MacDonald's husband". They co-starred only once: in a remake of the 1932 romantic drama vehicle *Smilin' Through*, which had featured Norma Shearer, Leslie Howard and Fredric March. But MGM's second shot at this, in 1941, was strangely flat, with the passionately-in-love husband and wife team of Raymond and MacDonald unaccountably failing to recreate on screen the feelings they undoubtedly entertained for each other in life. This was in marked contrast to the screen sentiment generated by MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, which had earned them the title "America's Sweethearts" (and a host of less charitable sobriquets from cynics and satirists).

The careers of both Raymond and MacDonald went off the boil soon after that: wartime audiences demanded sterner stuff from their screen lovers. In any event the war caught up with Raymond who joined the US Army Air Corps and became a bomber pilot in B17 Flying Fortresses in the European theatre. As such he was part of a bomber group which initiated daylight precision bombing.

But after demobilisation he continued to make a satisfactory living, producing a — not very successful — film, *Million Dollar Weekend*, in 1948, writing a television play, taking the odd film role and composing songs for his wife's concert tours. He also made occasional television appearances, but latterly, and particularly after his wife's death, he had concentrated on his business investments.

In the meantime he retained a commission in the US Air Force Reserve and in 1967 he was awarded the Legion of Merit for flights over Vietnam.

He married, secondly, in 1974, Nel Bentley Hees. She died in 1995.

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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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RTITS SERVICES LIMITED
Registered number: 2736562
Nature of business: Educational Services
Trade classification (s): 8
Administration order made (b): 22 April 1998
J D Newell and S H Kelly
Joint Administrators (office holder nos 7419 and 8582)

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Administration Order
CENTREL LIMITED
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Nature of business: Educational Services
Trade classification (s): 8
Administration order made (b): 22 April 1998
J D Newell and S H Kelly
Joint Administrators (office holder nos 7419 and 8582)

COMPANY NUMBER 02929736
SAVILLS (CENTRAL LONDON PROPERTIES) LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 29 April 1998 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 15 June 1998 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Dated 29 April 1998
CG Bird
Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

H. M. Land Registry
34 Acres of land at Fox Covert Lane, Wavedon, Bucks.
Application to register the freehold title to the above property has been made by Jean Mary Monday, Philip Monday and Clare Kathleen Monday as personal representatives of Frank Sidney Monday deceased. The Title Deeds are stated to have been lost. Anyone possessing the missing Deeds or objecting to the registration should notify The Leicester District Land Registry of Westbridge Place, Leicester LE3 8XH. Such objections to be received not later than 14 days from the appearance of this advertisement, quoting reference BM231104.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Having by special Resolution reduced its capital as confirmed by an Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated the 27TH APRIL 1998
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Given at Companies House, Cardiff the 5 May 1998
K. Williams
For The Registrar Of Companies

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the assets of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

MAINWARING-BURTON, EDWINA BRIDGET of Hungry Ledge, Maplederwell, Basingstoke, Hampshire died on 27 October 1997 particulars to WANSBROUGHS Solicitors of NORTHGATE HOUSE, DEVIZES, WILTSHIRE SN10 1JX before 10 July 1998

TURNER Miss Isobelle Margaret of Lansdowne House, Bath Road, Padworth, Reading died on 10th April 1998 Particulars to SERJEANT & SHEPPARD Solicitors(s) of 160 Prior Street, Reading RG1 1RE before 29th June 1998

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MILESTONES



Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, society figure, died on May 3 aged 91. She was born on January 31, 1907.

Maureen Dufferin was the inspiration for Osbert Lancaster's *outré* cartoon heroine, Maudie Littlehampton, not only in looks but in whimsy. She was one of the three far-from-demure Guinness sisters who so entertained Harold Acton and Evelyn Waugh in the 1920s. In 1930 she married Basil Ava (later the 4th Marquess of Dufferin and Ava). He was killed in action, and she married twice more, though retaining her title. She played bridge, kept a villa in Sardinia and founded a home for arthritics. For many years she entertained Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to an annual dinner with entertainingly eclectic guests. She was also a staunch litigator.

Obituary published on May 4.

Justin Fashanu, footballer, was found hanged on May 2 aged 37. He was born on February 19, 1961.

Between the ages of 17 and 20, Justin Fashanu played brilliant football for Norwich City. When he moved to Nottingham Forest in 1981, he was the first black player to change hands for £1 million. But he fell out with his new manager, Brian Clough, and in 32 matches scored only as many goals — three — as he once had against Stoke City in 20 minutes. He became instead a sad fixture in the tabloid headlines, not least for fabricating a story about a homosexual encounter with two Cabinet ministers. Blighted by injury, he worked for more than a dozen football clubs in Britain and America. At the time of his death he was wanted in America for alleged sexual assault of a youth.



Obituary published on May 4.

Dominique Aury, writer and editor, died on April 30 aged 90. She was born on September 23, 1907.

Dominique Aury was a prize-winning translator, occasional editor of literary anthologies and an important figure at France's leading publishing house, Gallimard. She fell in love with Jean Paulhan, the editor of the *Nouvelle Revue Française* and *Les Lettres Françaises*, with whom she worked, and when their affair faded, she wrote *Histoire d'O*. This erotic fantasy of female submission was published anonymously and became an international bestseller. Her parents never knew.

Obituary published on May 7.

Syd Lawrence, bandleader, died on May 5 aged 74. He was born on June 26, 1923.

As proprietor of a Cheshire hotel, Syd Lawrence set up his 19-piece orchestra in 1969 to entertain his guests by playing the way Glenn Miller had done up to his death 25 years earlier. They were an immediate success and soon on television, and the hotel quickly became second-



ary. Lawrence continued to lead from the trumpet until 1994. The musical style was unashamedly derivative — there was talk of breach of copyright — but his 20 albums were hugely popular.

Obituary published on May 7.

Equities reverse early falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	505	Allied Domecq	634	+ 7	4.0	15.2
412½	295	Bulmer (HP)	351½	+ 1½	5.3	10.8
42½	20½	Burn Stewart	21½	...	9.9	...
784	432	Diageo	731½	+ ½	2.5	31.9
900	765	Glenmorangie A	785	- 5	2.1	18.8
325	258	Highland Distl	317½		3.6	14.5
213½	160	Matthew Clark	201½		12.4	6.5
59½	39½	Minmet W	40½	- 2	9.8	
2021½	1368½	SA Breweries	1943½	- 25	1.8	

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1669¾	1178½	ABN-AMRO	1509¾	+ 43¾	2.1	21.4
1345	1010	Abbey Nat	1113	+ 8	3.4	17.1
1032	585	Alliance & Leicst	838	- 14	3.1	16.9
850½	567½	Allied Irish	837½	- 3	2.2	23.5
458½	376½	Aus New Z	433½	+ 12½	4.7	
5418¾	3881¼	Bank America	5090	+ 68¼		
813	431	Bank Scotland	707	- 8	1.7	18.9
1996	1068	Barclays	1770	+ 12	2.6	16.4
1309	916½	Bk of Ireland	1233½	- 5½	1.7	27.1
£102⅝	6790½	Citicorp	9000	+ 75		
1671½	1565⅝	Commerzbk	1671½		3.2	
543½	290½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	396½		1.0	
5306½	3668¼	Deutsche Bk	5306½		1.2	
1206½	1153½	Espirito Santo	1190¾	+ 6½	3.1	
531	245½	Fuji Bank Y	311½	- 9½	1.2	61.7
2073	1294	HSBC	1803	+ 29	3.5	14.4
2002	937	HSBC Hk	1712	+ 40	3.7	13.7
1000	700½	Halifax	791	+ 12½	2.8	22.9
842½	642½	Irish Perm	810		2.0	23.5
1090	698	Lloyds TSB	902½	+ 9½	2.4	24.0
916½	770½	Nat Aust Bk	865	+ 2½	4.3	
1241	751	Nat West	1210	- 8	3.3	25.8
673	575	Northern Rock	608	+ ½	2.2	23.0
1099	565	Ryl Bk Scot	997	+ 9	2.8	18.4
1050	526	Stand Chart	887	+ 20	2.6	14.4
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
439	385½	Westpac	410	+ 5½	3.4	
400	308	Woolwich	344	+ 7½	3.5	17.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1180	873	Bass	1090	- 18	3.2	19.5
61½	50½	Brit Vir the Bdr	57		4.2	17.0
163½	144½	Burtonwd Brw	163½	..	5.4	14.4
144½	110	City Centre Rest	140	- ½	2.5	21.7
1140	581	Compass Gp	1028	+ 8	1.2	35.7
334½	280½	Eurodge P 'A'	333½	- 1	2.9	16.8
384½	251½	Enterprise Inns	385		2.6	20.1
475	425	Fuller Sm 'A'	472½		2.8	15.2
494½	400	Greenalls Grp	471½	- 4½	4.4	11.8
760	676½	Greene King	710	- 1	3.0	14.5
285½	197½	Grosvenor Inns	285	+ ½	2.8	37.3
344	260	Groupe Chez Gerd	344	+ 11½	1.2	23.8
259½	214½	Hardy Hanson	259½		5.5	11.3
2175	1825	Holt J	1950		4.4	
75	62	Ion Business	72½	+ ½	3.2	10.9
305	279	Mansfield	296		3.1	12.2
320½	254½	Marston Thmp	309½		3.4	11.0
442½	402½	Morland	402½	- 5	4.1	10.1
382½	294½	Old Eng Pub	381½	+ 4	0.8	30.1
31½	21½	Panmure	25½			
828½	678½	PizzaExpress	781½	- 2½	0.6	35.3
377½	297½	Ramsden's (H)	302½		2.1	28.1
380½	302½	Regent Inns	380	+ ½	1.2	37.2
227	140½	SFI	207½	- 1	0.5	36.2
950	717	Scot & New	916½	- 5½	3.0	18.3
288½	227	Vaux Group	264½	- 6½	5.2	11.2
343	273½	Wetherspoon JDt	323½		0.8	34.8
1145	850	Whitbread	1039	- 15	3.2	18.3
530	469	Wolverhmptn D	504		4.6	11.4
493½	381	Yates Bros	492½	+ 3	0.8	35.5
667½	637½	Young 'A'	641½	- 5	3.0	36.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

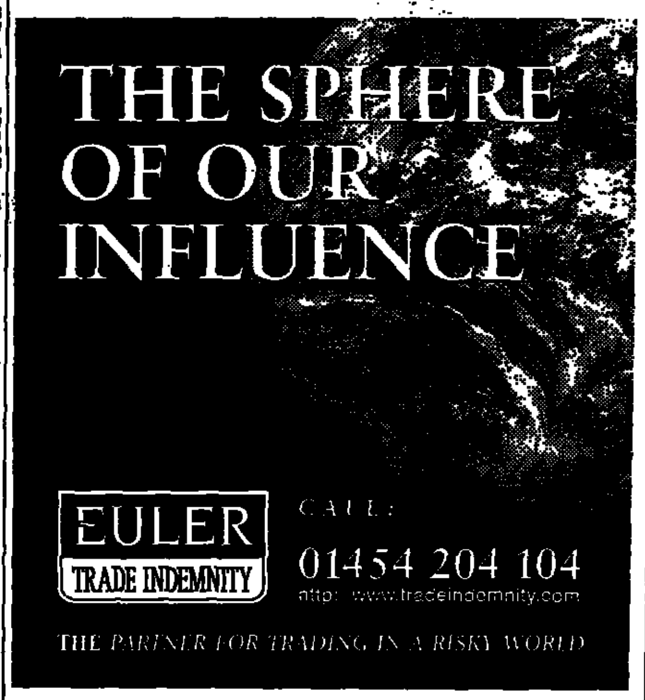
[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]



LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	411¼	BT	664	- 3	3.6	19.2
1637½	614½	COLT Telecom	1430	+ 10		
765	467½	Cable Wireless	644	+ 3	2.1	27.1
456½	264½	Cable&Wire Coms	444	- 6½		
755	252½	Energis	638½	+ 3½		
313	250	Euro Telecom	310		1.1	26.1
189½	77½	General Cable	182½	+ 1½		
451	239½	Orange	434½	+ 12½		
422	286½	Securicor	399	+ 3	0.5	51.8
109	69½	TeleWest	104½	+ ½		
681	298	Vodafone	670	- 4½	1.0	55.2

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
967	780	Anglian	860½	+ 8½	5.2	11.8
335	285	East Surrey	296½		4.7	12.0
1053½	907	Hyder	939	- 5½	6.1	7.9
125	115¼	Hyder Cm Pf	122½		8.0	
770	650	Mid Kent Hdgs	760		5.1	11.3
1085	865	Severn Trent	958	- 7	4.9	10.5
3635	3365	South Staff.	3500	- 5	3.3	14.8
1005	864½	South West	946	- 6½	5.0	11.9
1043	800	Thames	926	- 20	4.8	10.4
950	658	Utd Utilities	791	+ 1	6.1	12.8
550	465	Wessex	475	- 3	4.9	9.2
550	446	Yorkshire	446½	- 2½	5.4	8.7

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
235	193	Cale Inns	219		1.7	15.6
29	14½	Chongqt	26	- ½		
202½	155	Dawson Hdgs	175		3.4	15.7
38½	33	Freepages	36			
65½	50½	Megalomedia	51		0.5	21.0
33	21½	Mennon CorpA	32	+ ½		
490	344	Prism Rail	405	+ 10	2.9	
847½	620	Ramco Egy	670	- 2½		
830	740	Southern News	838		3.2	16.2
94½	84½	Southern Vecks	87½	...	3.0	13.6

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	1998 High	Low	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.25	7.65
Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.96	6.20
Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	15.03	6.95
Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.70	6.96
Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.34	6.90
Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.72	6.80
Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.13	6.71
Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.05	6.65
Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.75	6.60
Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.65	6.53
Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.71	6.36
Treas 8½% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.25	6.55
Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.51	6.52
Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.17	6.52
Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.84	6.23
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
Treas 7% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.79	6.13
Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.80	6.17
Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.38	6.06
Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.50	6.08
Treas 11¾% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.18	6.40
Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.77	4.85
Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.00	6.02
Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.47	5.94
Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.37	5.94
Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.94	6.00
Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.62	6.06
Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.78	5.86
Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.94	5.94
Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.49	6.21
Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.59	6.14
Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.20	5.91
Treas 7¼% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.59	5.86
Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.25	5.86
Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.80	5.85
Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.04	5.85
Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.01	5.87
Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.94	5.88
Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.67	5.74
Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.62	5.92
LONGS (over 15 years)						
Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.61	5.85
Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.46	5.82
Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.56	5.83
Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.26	5.79
UNDATED						
War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.86	
Treas 2½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.04	
Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.20	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.78	3.11
Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.84	3.06
Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.73	2.97
Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.88	2.93
Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.82	2.93
Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.87	2.92
Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.81	2.89
Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.79	2.87
Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.81	2.87
Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.79	2.85
Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.76	2.81

Source: FT Information

Price at Suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ♥ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل



TRANSFORMED 30
From drinks to groceries for Bull

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 9 1998

Thomson extends offer of perks

Criticism prompts move as SFA begins inquiry

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Securities and Futures Authority is investigating the way share shops handled applications for Thomson Travel Group shares.

Meanwhile, Thomson, alarmed at the growing controversy over its £1.7 billion flotation, sought to appease disgruntled investors by pledging to make everyone who registered for shares a member of its Founders' Club, giving a 10 per cent discount on holidays.

It has also agreed to allow investors who buy shares after the flotation to benefit from similar perks to those offered to the original investors. About 600,000 individuals registered for shares. SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the merchant bank acting as official co-ordinator of the global offer, also came in for criticism from retail brokers for delivering prospectuses late, appointing too few share shops to handle the offer, and allowing too little time between the closing date for registration and the final deadline for returning application forms. Warburg will share a fee of up to £51 million with three other advisers.

It was the threat of having to compensate possibly tens of thousands of disappointed investors, however, that spurred TTG into action last night.

After a hastily convened meeting yesterday afternoon TTG said it intended to honour all applications that share shops had collected by the official deadline yesterday at noon.

A spokesman for TTG said: "There have been an unusually large number of people who wanted to participate in the offer and we wanted to do everything possible to ensure that those who registered were looked after to the best of our ability."

In addition, all 600,000 people who registered for the public offer, regardless of whether they returned their application forms, would be made honorary members of TTG's Founders' Club until December 31.

They will be able to buy shares in the second-hand market using a low-cost share dealing service on or after May 18, which would allow them to remain a member of the Founders' Club for as long as they hold the shares. TTG acted to allay the criticism that the public offer had been mishandled after the SFA, which regulates brokers, contacted some of the share shops after allegations from customers of inept administration. Many investors claimed that they registered in April but did not receive share application forms until yesterday, 24 hours after the deadline.

A spokesman for the SFA said last night: "I can confirm that we have responded to investors' complaints by contacting the institutions involved. We have started to look into the matter to establish the facts." If the complaints are valid and customers have suffered a loss the SFA can discuss the issue of compensation with the share shops.

In cases where firms do not compensate investors on a voluntary basis, investors can seek compensation through arbitration. The most recent example of a company that was fined by the SFA and compensated investors was Fidelity Brokerage. The Share Centre, one of the five appointed share shops, said it had "a running dialogue" with the SFA but did not believe there were grounds for compensating investors. "I do not believe that we can compensate for the Royal Mail's failure to provide a next-day delivery service," said Gavin Oldham, a director.

City sources expect TTG shares to begin trading at the top of the 140p to 170p price range and believe demand has been so great that the retail offer, currently earmarked at 10 per cent, will be scaled up. The institutional offer closed at 5pm yesterday.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5969.8	(+31.8)
Yield	2.76%	
FTSE All share	2819.13	(+16.00)
Nikkei	15149.00	(+5.97)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9070.10	(+93.42)*
S&P Composite	1108.84	(+13.70)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5¾%)
Long Bond	102⅜₂*	(102⅛₂)
Yield	5.95%*	(5.95%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7¾%	(7¾%)
Life long gilt future (Jun)	108⁷₃₂	(108¼)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6380*	(1.6490)
London:		
$	1.6365	(1.6459)
DM	2.8946	(2.9028)
FFr	9.7077	(9.7324)
SFr	2.4176	(2.4180)
Yen	217.06	(218.95)
£ Index	103.0	(103.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7705*	(1.7670)
FFr	5.9365*	(5.9255)
SFr	1.4800*	(1.4733)
Yen	132.83*	(133.32)
$ Index	109.3	(109.4)

Tokyo close Yen 132.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul).. $14.90 ($14.75)

GOLD

London close..... $300.05 ($298.45)

* denotes midday trading price

EMI stuns City as Seagram bid talks collapse

BY RAYMOND SNODDY AND CHRIS AYRES

EMI GROUP stunned shareholders yesterday when it revealed bid talks with Seagram had been aborted. The company's shares, buoyed by takeover speculation, are set to plummet when trading resumes on Monday.

For the first time since bid speculation began in February, sources close to Seagram admitted it had been involved in bid negotiations with EMI, which is home to a wide range of British music from The Beatles to the Spice Girls.

The collapse of talks between the two companies follows Thursday's disclosure that PolyGram, EMI's fierce rival, was being offered for sale by Philips, its Dutch parent company. Analysts believe PolyGram would be a much more attractive acquisition for Seagram, which owns the Universal music and film business.

The international music industry now potentially faces a fierce bidding war for PolyGram, with sources in America suggesting that Walt Disney has been in takeover talks with the group for some time. Sources said that was why the company appeared to rule itself out of the bidding contest for EMI as early as two weeks ago.

A sale of EMI to a foreign bidder would have undoubtedly provoked enormous objections from both music industry pundits and pop stars. It could also have sparked an exodus of artistes to rival labels. EMI is the world's only big music company not to be owned by a larger corporation.

Seagram insiders said the talks broke down because Sir Colin Southgate, EMI's chairman, had "unrealistic" expections on price. Analysts have estimated that a contested offer for EMI must value the company at about 750p a share, giving it a total value of nearly £6 billion.

One insider said Sir Colin had made it clear to Seagram that he wanted to see a bid that valued the company at more than 700p a share. But Seagram argued that analysts had given EMI a pre-bid value of only about 500p a share, and therefore refused to pay more than 600p a share. It is understood that no other company apart from Seagram was in discussions with EMI.

Bid speculation has injected life into EMI's otherwise under-performing shares, which have jumped from 430p in February to more than 600p last week. Yesterday they closed 2p down at 573p before the announcement was made, and are expected to fall heavily next week. Crédit Lyonnais, the investment bank, this week said that EMI's shares would be worth only about 500p if no bid emerged.

Although EMI has a strong musical back catalogue, it has been dogged by difficult market conditions and management turmoil which recently saw the resignation of Jim Fifield, head of the company's US operations, with a £12.5 million pay-off. However, there has also been speculation over whether Seagram could afford to buy EMI — and other bid candidates have been ruled out because of regulatory difficulties.

Like EMI, PolyGram would give Seagram a valuable European presence, but would also provide synergies for its film business. PolyGram has been responsible for recent hits such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Bean*, but its filmed entertainment division is not expected to make a profit until 1999.

Commentary 29
In a spin 30



George Greener, the Hillsdown chief, may receive £383,000 on his early departure

Brown rebuffs idea of secrecy at ECB

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN rebuffed Wim Duisenberg, nominee for President of the European Central Bank, yesterday over his suggestion that the ECB should delay the publication of details of its policy meetings for 16 years.

The Chancellor said that Mr Duisenberg's plans represented just "one way forward" and it had not been decided how to make the ECB accountable.

"The European Central Bank is bound under its constitution to report to the European Parliament and European Council and whatever process is eventually decided must take this into account," Mr Brown said.

Mr Duisenberg caused a stir on Thursday when he told the European Parliament that the UK's habit of publishing minutes of monetary committee meeting six weeks in arrears was in part to blame for the over-valuation of sterling. He said the public display of internal Bank divisions has fostered market uncertainty.

Mr Brown, who was speaking ahead of the G7-G8 finance ministers meeting in London, said he would be pushing for tougher powers for the International Monetary Fund to try to avert another Asian-style crisis.

☐ US employment data yesterday showed unemployment falling sharply to a 28-year low in April of 4.3 per cent. Average earnings rose at an annual rate of 4.4 per cent — the highest figure for 15 years. The news pushed dollar higher on the foreign exchanges. The pound, however, continued to come under pressure amid speculation that European interest rates will rise ahead of EMU. Sterling dipped below DM2.90 to close at DM2.8950 from DM2.9032.

Commentary, page 29

BMW may raise bid to counter VW offer

BY ADAM JONES

BMW may yet raise its £340 million offer for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars after Volkswagen trumped it with a £430 million bid on Thursday night. Yesterday, the Bavarian carmaker repeated its threat to remove its engines from the new Rolls-Royce and Bentley range if VW is triumphant.

A source close to BMW said: "The overall feeling in the market is that a higher bid cannot be ruled out." Vickers shares rose 10p yesterday as the market welcomed the higher bid. Shareholders will vote on both the VW and BMW bids on June 4.

The offer, backed by the Vickers board, is free of the conditions that VW had wanted early in the bidding, such as an assurance that it could use the Rolls-Royce name, which is owned by Rolls-Royce plc, the aircraft engine maker.

An agreement drawn up in the early 1970s gives Rolls-Royce plc the power to withold the name from a foreign buyer. Vickers is trying to challenge the veto clause in the European courts.

The VW offer will be worth more than the £430 million headline value because, like BMW, it will make an adjusting payment to cover the build-up of stocks prior to the launch of the Silver Seraph and Bentley Arnage.

BDB upbeat on launch

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH Digital Broadcasting, the digital television venture, forecast yesterday that it would make £100 million profit a year if it manages to sign up two million subscribers and over £250 million if it attracts five million subscribers.

BDB, a joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada, plans to launch 15 digital channels in November. The company told City analysts yesterday that attracting 1.8 million subscribers would be enough for breakeven.

At least 30 digital channels will be launched before the end of the year which will normally be able to be received without either satellite dishes or cable connections.

Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, told analysts yesterday: "In the future, everyone will have digital television. All broadcasting will be in digital. And the Government will switch off the analogue signal."

Stephen Grabiner, BDB chief executive, declined to speculate when breakeven might come.

Second Greener payoff

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GEORGE GREENER is in line for his second large payoff in two years after leaving his job as chief executive of Hillsdown Holdings, the food, building and furniture conglomerate that yesterday announced a big restructuring programme.

Mr Greener, 53, who is set to leave Hillsdown in the summer, is likely to be paid one year's basic salary when he leaves. He was paid £383,000 last year. He received about £700,000 plus pension contributions when he left his job as head of Eagle Star, the insurance arm of BAT, two years ago.

Analysts were surprised that Mr Greener is leaving at such a delicate point in Hillsdown's history. It plans to demerge and sell more than half of the group, starting this autumn, and hopes to raise up to £600 million.

Hillsdown will also pay a year's salary to its finance director, who is leaving. Ray Mackie was paid a £230,000 basic salary last year.

Demerger proposal, page 29
Tempus, page 31

AWEEK IN THE CITY

They don't come much more action-packed. The battle for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars intensified. Daimler-Benz unveiled a $92 billion merger with Chrysler, and the Royal Automobile Club faced fresh ructions. The ghost of Robert Maxwell rattled his chains, while another faded Eighties' star, Terry Ramsden, found himself behind bars. Sterling slumped to a low for the year, as the Bank of England left interest rates on hold at 7.25 per cent.

Having said "yes" to BMW, Rolls-Royce decided to run with Volkswagen instead, sealing the fate of the famous luxury marque. VW came brandishing a cheque for £430 million, pipping BMW's £340 million. Mercedes-Benz cars and Grand Cherokee trucks look set to become equally unlikely bedfellows, under the proposed tie-up between Daimler-Benz and Chrysler. Daimler Chrysler will have sales of $130 billion, and pre-tax profits of $6.9 billion.

Controversy rumbled on over the proposed sale of RAC Motoring Services to Cendant, the American company that recently bought National Parking Corporation. The Automobile Association took out full-page adverts exploiting rifts at the RAC, whose 12,000 full members are each set to receive a £35,000 bonus. Embarrassingly, the AA director-general is an honorary RAC member, but said he would give his windfall to charity.

Six-and-a-half years after his death, Robert Maxwell refuses to go away. Coopers & Lybrand, which was the auditor for most of the Maxwell companies, was roundly condemned in a preliminary report by accountancy regulators. Allegations against the firm will be heard by a tribunal in the autumn. It is alleged that Coopers should have considered its position three months before Maxwell parted company with the *Lady Ghislaine*.

Terry Ramsden, the postman's son from North London who made a fortune trading Japanese warrants, was jailed for 21 months at the Old Bailey for failing to disclose assets while bankrupt. Thousands of pounds were paid from a New York trust fund to his mother, Florence, who then passed it on. Ramsden, who once owned 75 racehorses, is reputed to have lost £58 million betting at the races.

The Government said it hopes to bring in civil sanctions for insider dealing, lowering the burden of proof and bringing the prospect of unlimited fines for offenders. Powers will be vested in the Financial Services Authority. The liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International announced a second dividend for creditors of 18.4 per cent. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, chairman of J Sainsbury, is quitting the supermarket chain to go into politics, removing a Sainsbury from the helm for the first time in 129 years. Sir George Bull, the outgoing deputy chairman of Diageo, takes over in September.

Vernons, the pools group, forged an improbable alliance with Camelot, the lottery operator, over a new football game, to be played on National Lottery terminals. Philips said it was reviewing its 75 per cent stake in PolyGram, effectively putting a "for sale" sign over the world's largest music company.

JON ASHWORTH

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WorldCom MCI merger faces legal hurdle

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

THE $40 billion (£24 billion) phone merger of WorldCom and MCI is facing a tough legal hurdle that is likely to delay the deal. The two US phone groups will have to defend their merger in the same courtroom as embattled Microsoft.

GTE, another US phone group that was close to BT and its attempt last year to buy MCI, has filed a lawsuit aiming to block the merger on antitrust grounds. The GTE suit alleges the creation of WorldCom MCI will damage competition in the market for long-distance calls. MCI is America's second-largest long-distance carrier and WorldCom is number four.

A second part of the suit focuses on the Internet and data transfer market. GTE claims that WorldCom MCI will control half the world's Internet traffic. GTE is one of WorldCom's main competitors in the data transfer market.

The lawsuit will be heard in a Washington court by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who is also presiding over the antitrust case against Microsoft and its position in the Internet browser market. Judge Jackson is seen as having been very tough on Microsoft after he appointed a known Microsoft critic as a special counsel to the court.

William Barr, a GTE executive vice-president, said his company was opposed to the merger because it was "highly uncompetitive". The deal was scheduled to close this summer but a courtroom showdown could drag on for months as the protracted Microsoft suit has shown.

Mr Barr has also passed GTE documents to the Justice Department in Washington to substantiate its claims after close contacts with top officials. The lawsuit is separate from a Justice Department investigation into the effects of the merger. The European Commission, too, is investigating the two phone groups and will hold hearings in Brussels next week.

MCI rejected the claims made by GTE in the lawsuit. It claimed that GTE was attempting to protect its own near-monopoly in the local call market by striking at the merger. MCI also said its share of the Internet market was closer to 20 per cent. Experts widely disagree on how to measure market shares.

Insurers may shun Isas over charges

By Marianne Curphey

THE future of the individual savings account (Isa), the Government's ambitious plan to encourage saving, has been thrown into doubt because of objections from insurance companies over the proposed charging structure.

The Times has learnt that the Treasury wants to limit the annual management charge for the plans to 0.75 per cent and to allow a minimum contribution over 12 months of £500. Savers will be allowed to hold cash, equity or life insurance products up to £5,000 a year within their Isa, but some of the biggest financial services players in the market say that they are not interested in offering a life insurance product with such a stringent charging structure.

One major provider said: "Even with high volumes, rates like these and such small contribution levels mean that we will not cover our costs.

"We are also concerned that because the Isa will be bought on an annual basis, an alternative system of recovering charges over a long period will not be available to us."

A spokeswoman for the Treasury said that a consultation paper would be published in the next few weeks.

The Government favours a "benchmarking" system with the working title of "the CAT mark", which would lay down strict criteria governing charges, access and terms of the Isa contract.

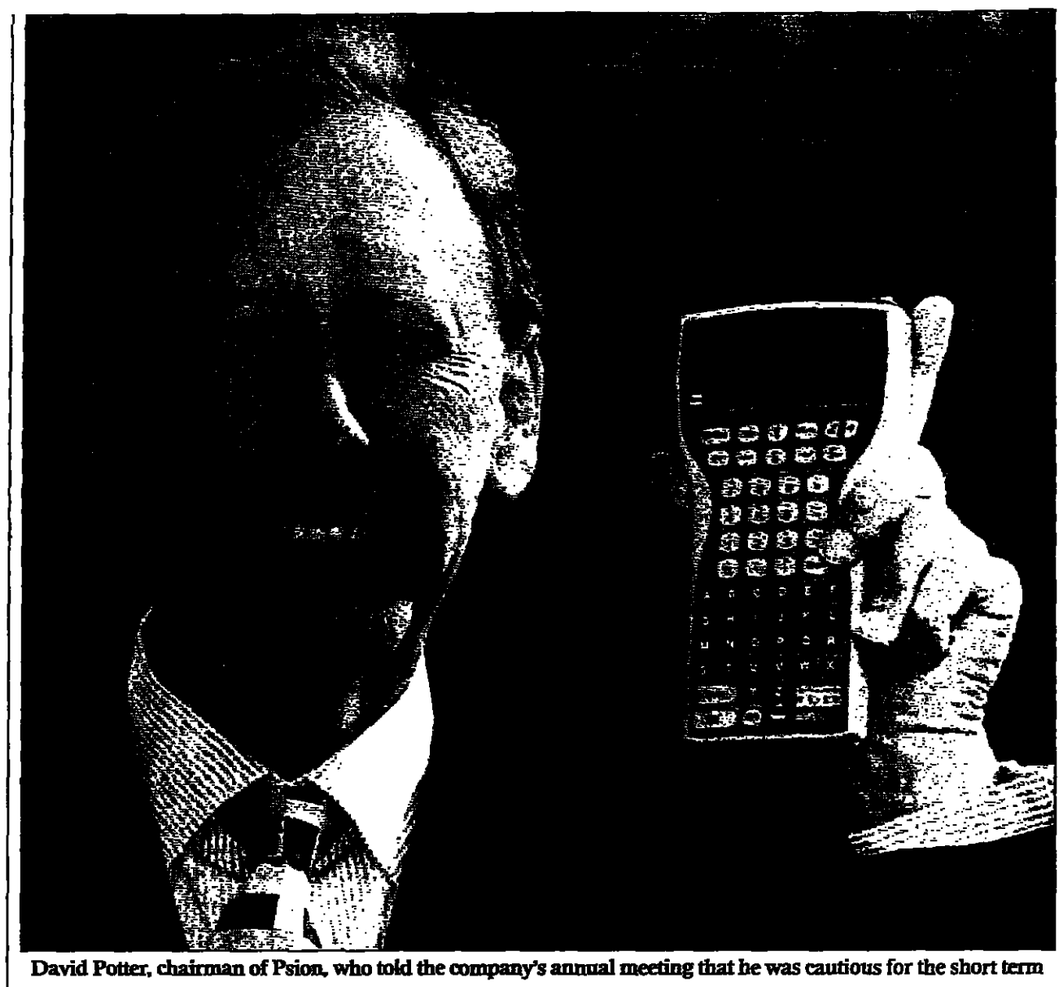
The Isa is being introduced in April 1999 to replace personal equity plans (Peps) and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). The emphasis will be on flexibility and, in particular, giving savers the ability to switch between providers without penalty and to increase or decrease their contributions.

The Government wants to regulate the Isa as a product so that it can be made widely available to all investors, whether they are sophisticated in financial matters or not. With existing products, it is the sales process, and not the product itself, that is regulated — a system that is costly for financial services companies and time-consuming for the investor.

The aim for the Isa is to make it so simple and low cost that it can be understood by the masses, encouraging millions of people to save for their future. The Government has pledged that the Isa will run for at least ten years.

People using an Isa will have the option of investing £1,000 in cash, putting £1,000 in life insurance and placing the rest in stock market investments. Alternatively, the full £5,000 can be invested in equities.

Pensions survey, page 64



David Potter, chairman of Psion, who told the company's annual meeting that he was cautious for the short term

Psion share price slides to new low

DAVID POTTER, chairman of Psion, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting of the electronic organiser company, that he remained cautious over the short-term prospects (George Sivell writes). The shares, which traded at 509p a year ago, fell a further 1½p to a new low for the year of 265p in response.

Mr Potter added that sales for the first four months of 1998 are modestly ahead of the previous year but said the board remained cautious because of the strength of sterling.

He reported good progress in mobile network products and industrial terminals. Mr Potter told shareholders: "The Series 5 is now firmly established in Europe as the hand-held market leader and some quarter of a million units have been shipped thus far."

Psion has also completed the £3 million purchase of the remaining 50 per cent of Psion Nederland from Rinkelberg Beheer.

Harold Goddijin, Psion Nederland's managing director, is to become managing director of Psion Computers.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Verity licence deals give price a boost

VERITY, the manufacturer of innovative flat loudspeakers which is struggling to keep up with demand, yesterday announced that it had signed 30 important licensing agreements since February. Shares in the company rose 2p to 101½p, having jumped from just 6½p in 1994. Companies which have licensed Verity's technology include specialist audio equipment manufacturers such as ACE of Hong Kong, Audio Artistry and Martin Logan of the US, Rotel of Japan and TDL and TW Industries of the UK. It has also sold licences to Becker Group, a suppiler of car interiors, Blick, a public address system manufacturer, Mabeg, a street furniture manufacturer, and Peacock, the multimedia PC maker.

Peter Thoms, finance director, said: "Active negotiations continue with an increasing number of other companies, including major consumer electronics manfacturers." He added that the company was making technological progress and had more than 100 patents and patents pending. Verity believes that, although competing technologies may emerge, the rapid growth of patent protection consolidates the NXT technology's position.

SDX shares soar

SHARES in SDX Business Systems rose 58p to 353½p yesterday after the supplier of telecoms equipment admitted it had received a bid approach. SDX, which floated on the stock market in December 1996 at 160p a share, has quickly expanded to become the UK's third biggest supplier of office telephone systems behind BT and Siemens GPT. In January it reported a 38 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £4.4 million, on turnover that rose to £45.3 million from £33.1 million as exports more than doubled.

Sumitomo provision

SUMITOMO, the Japanese trading company, has set aside $150 million (£91 million) to cover some of the future costs related to the copper scandal that has already cost it $2.6 billion. Future costs include a settlement with US regulators, and further provision may be needed. In June 1996, Sumitomo announced huge copper trading losses, blaming unauthorised deals by Yasuo Hamanaka, its chief trader. In the US, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, is thought to have finished its inquiry, and may announce a settlement soon.

Sykes in Cox talks

ANDREWS SYKES GROUP, the air conditioning company, is negotiating the possible purchase of Cox Plant Hire from Transport Development Group. TDG announced Cox was up for sale in February as part of plans to distribute £109 million back to TDG shareholders. Sykes, on the verge of collapse in the early 1990s, has been nursed back to health by new management and is known to have been considering a number of acquisitions. The shares, which hit a 12-month low of 542½p in August, rose 10p to £10.45 yesterday.

Approach at Gibbon

SHARES in Gibbon Group rose 51p to 216½p yesterday after the manufacturer of industrial inks said it was in talks with a possible bidder for the company. Talks are believed to be taking place with Trenal, a Belgian company, that holds a 6 per cent stake in Gibbon. At yesterday's closing price Gibbon is capitalised at about £22 million. In its last financial year, to the end of March 19997, Gibbon saw pre-tax profits fall to £1.9 million from £2.4 million on sales up from £29 million to £32.3 million.

Electra may appeal

ELECTRA FLEMING and other institutional shareholders in Astec (BSR) are considering an appeal after the High Court dismissed their challenge to Astec's majority shareholder, Emerson Electric, the US firm. Investors had presented a petition claiming Emerson contravened the 1985 Companies Act by acting in a way "unfairly prejudicial" to other Astec investors. Investors are expected to examine the written judgment, which becomes available next week, and could decide whether to appeal after the Astec annual shareholders' meeting on May 20.

Forth Ports good start

BILL THOMSON, chairman of Forth Ports, said trading for the first quarter has been encouraging and he is confident that 1998 will be a good year for the company. Mr Thomson hopes to announce the names of key tenants for the Ocean Terminal development that is the new home to the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. He said: "Already we have seen significantly more interest being shown in the Ocean Terminal. We hope to announce the names of the key anchor tenants, and our joint venture partner, within the next six weeks."

Eyecare in negotiations

EYECARE PRODUCTS is at the preliminary stage of three-way negotiations to acquire the Metzler Group of Germany as well as the Optimaxx Group of Austria, which also trades under the name Eyemaxx. The negotiations have not yet resulted in binding agreements. Metzler had 1997 sales of £30 million and is the largest ophthalmic frame manufacturer and distributor in Germany. Optimaxx is a distributor of optical frames through its salesforce network based in eight countries and has sales running at £12 million a year.

Robeco buys WPG

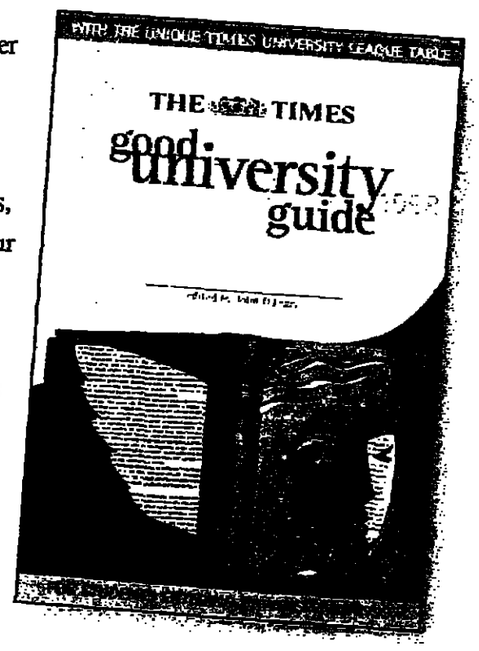
ROBECO GROUP, the Dutch fund management business, is buying Weiss, Peck & Greer (WPG), the American asset manager, at a cost of about £350 million. WPG — based in New York — has about £9.7 billion under management. The transaction will raise the value of Robeco's total assets under management to £51.5 billion. WPG was established in 1970 and was one of the first American asset managers to launch venture capital operations in 1971. It added private equity operations in 1981.

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CHANGING TIMES

Nationwide fights to keep status

By Caroline Merrell

NATIONWIDE Building Society stepped up its fight to keep its savers loyal to the principle of mutuality yesterday by launching a high-interest account aimed at four million of its members.

The launch of the account, which pays a competitive 8 per cent for savings of between £1 and the £10,000 maximum, comes as the Nationwide faces a crucial vote on its future.

Next month two candidates in favour of either forcing the Nationwide to float or pay dividends to savers and borrowers are standing for election to the building society's board.

The vote on the election of Andrew Muir, a recruitment specialist, and Michael Hardern, an eccentric freelance butler, is seen as a test of members' commitment to mutuality. Last year the board defeated a similar vote by three to one.

The new three-year bond is available only to those who have been with the society for five years or more. The society claims that about four million of its members will qualify.

Nationwide can take a maximum of £1 billion of savings under the offer.

Derivatives trader is struck off

By Jon Ashworth

A SENIOR City derivatives executive who siphoned off $450,000 (£275,000) in company funds has been struck off by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA).

John Ribeiro, former senior executive officer of TRX Futures, was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £8,100. He has been deemed not to be fit and proper to be registered with the SFA in any capacity.

TRX, owned by Neumann Gruppe, a German coffee commodities trader, recovered the money after obtaining a Mareva injunction freezing Mr Ribeiro's assets. It found a surplus arising from an accounting transaction in 1993 had been transferred to offshore accounts linked to companies set up by Mr Ribeiro.

One, Neugruppe Limited, was incorporated in Jersey at Mr Ribeiro's behest. The money was later transferred to an account held in the name of Wildlily, thought to be incorporated in Switzerland. Neither company was connected with Neumann Groupe.

Mr Ribeiro admitted moving TRX monies through a series of accounts, making it difficult to trace the funds back to TRX. A file has been passed to the City of London police.

Millionaire's encore with AIM flotations

By Fraser Nelson

VINCENT ISAACS, the millionaire who pioneered unit-linked funds in the 1960s, has made a second fortune by bringing an advertising group and a firm of financial advisers to the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

In two separate flotations, Mr Isaacs, aged 62, who made more than £20 million when he sold General Portfolio to GAN, is set to enjoy a shareholding worth £11.8 million in Ambient Media Corporation and Inter-Alliance.

He will own a £10.4 million stake in Ambient Media, a newly formed company that places adverts on cash-machine receipts. It incorporates Guild of Excellence, which Mr Isaacs set up three years ago to provide a loyalty card system valid for independent shops. Its cards, branded Touch, have the potential to be used as an electronic purse.

Mr Isaacs has a £1.4 million stake in Inter-Alliance, a firm of 95 independent financial advisers, which will raise £5 million when it joins the AIM on May 18.

He set up both companies with proceeds of his General Portfolio sale, and has invested £8.5 million in Ambient — of which he is executive chairman. It is to join the AIM on May 20.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.66	2.49
Austria Sch	21.40	19.74
Belgium Fr	62.99	58.02
Canada $	2.474	2.286
Cyprus Cypr	0.897	0.836
Denmark Kr	11.83	10.74
Finland Mkk	9.36	8.61
France Fr	10.19	9.41
Germany Dm	3.06	2.82
Greece Dr	530	491
Hong Kong $	13.51	12.31
Iceland	129	109
Ireland Pt	1.21	1.12
Israel Shk	6.41	5.76
Italy Lira	3034	2797
Japan Yen	231.63	214.10
Malta	0.675	0.616
Netherlds Gld	3.457	3.162
New Zealand $	2.14	2.90
Norway Kr	12.74	11.80
Portugal Esc	309.59	287.56
S Africa Rd	8.98	8.03
Spain Pta	257.84	238.86
Sweden Kr	13.27	12.17
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.35
Turkey Lira	414183	394305
USA $	1,743	1.600

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The bid that never was

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Poor EMI. The company is now being subjected to the public humiliation of being jilted without even having had the opportunity to enjoy a proper proposal. The denouement to this sorry tale has come so fast that one cannot help wondering whether the silly creature had not read too much into what was nothing more than run of the mill flirting.

But the bid that never was has served the useful purpose of diverting attention from the ungainly restructuring of EMI's top management and controversy over Sir Colin Southgate's leadership to focus attention on the more positive aspects of the company. If the share price retains at least some of the hefty gain of the past week, then Sir Colin may feel the episode has been worthwhile.

Some shareholders, however, will probably feel mightily aggrieved to have had their hopes of a takeover raised and then so cruelly dashed. The statement from the company on Thursday of last week indicated that some serious talking was going on between EMI and a suitor. This was dragged out of Sir Colin by the Takeover Panel, which probably had to apply all the force necessary to squeeze a note out of a CD player. The Panel's interest had been activated by a rise in the EMI share price, fuelled by stories about the octagenarian Kirk Kerkorian preparing a bid for the group. Kerkorian, who has just made a killing on Chrysler, may have cast an eye over EMI, but he has still to make any contact with the company or its advisers. But this was the chance for Sir Colin to admit that he was chatting to Seagram.

The two companies are not unknown to each other. They have passed the time of day together before. How did the conversation go this time? It seems it may have gone beyond mere pleasantries, but not much further, for the gap between the two is wide. Sir Colin's view of EMI's worth and that of Edgar Bronfman Jr do not coincide. When a figure of £7 was mentioned, the flirting stopped. As if on cue, almost simultaneously another attractive prospect began to flutter its eyelashes in Bronfman's direction, as Phillips pushed its prodigé, PolyGram, forward as an attractive marriage partner.

Seagram may have to fight it out with Disney for PolyGram, but, if it wins, it could leave EMI looking set for a life on the shelf. Of the main players in the music business, all but Seagram would run into regulatory problems if they attempted to get together.

Yet the truth is that there are huge synergies to be gained by putting Seagram's Universal with EMI. If it loses PolyGram to Disney, Seagram may be tempted back to talk to EMI but a hostile bid seems unlikely, for the temperaments that make the money in the music business can be easily offended.

So the likelihood for Sir Colin and his shareholders is that they will now have to forget the bid excitment and get on with building the business, albeit from the comfort of a jollier share price.

The Wim of the Bundesbank

A "fudge" or a "fix" may have been the descriptions of the ill-cobbled deal over the presidency of the European Central Bank. But Wim Duisenberg's comments just days after the dirty deal which would see him take the role for four years before handing over to a French nominee — Asterix the Gaul or Johnny Halliday would do presumably — show just what a dangerous agreement it was, and for surprising reasons. Suddenly, the sombre Dutchman is taking on new, and disturbing, characteristics.

The French objections to Duisenberg — apart from the usual Gallic desire to control everything — were that he was a Bundesbank clone. But now it seems that may have been to underestimate his view on the supremacy of central bankers. To suggest, even in tongue-in-cheek fashion, that the ECB should not publish the minutes of its meetings for at least 16 years after they occur, is a blatant attempt to stop the move towards glasnost in the management of financial affairs.

Duisenberg does not like the Federal Reserve model — recently adopted by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee — which sees the minutes of meetings to decide interest rates published shortly afterwards. He says this undermines the confidence the markets have in decisions and has contributed to the strength of sterling in recent months as traders look at how close the decisions were and try and second-guess how the vote will go next time. What would he prefer? Markets guided by rumours and partial information? We live in an era when leaks are a part of every day life — in the City and Wall Street traders can make millions on a nugget of information; secrecy is close to impossible, and, anyhow, only encourages speculation.

Duisenberg's comments are a slap in the face for the concept of accountability — and, by implication, a punch on the nose for Gordon Brown, who has been preaching the idea of of openness. He made the Bank of England more open. He praised the IMF for being open. He no doubt wants the ECB, which will be at least the second most powerful economic body in the world, to explain what it is doing and gain popular support for its actions. Everyone suspected that Duisenberg was a paid up member of the Bundesbank's "we know best" club, but he does not have to wave his membership card around quite so vigorously.

Thomson Travel travails

Thomson Travel appears to have found a clever route out of what might have been a public relations disaster. While the SFA takes a closer look at how some of the City's finest managed to bungle the flotation, Thomson is gleefully lining up customers for the millennium.

The public has been hugely excited by the prospect of joining the club of founding shareholders to whom Thomson is promising a lifetime discount of 10 per cent on holidays. But given the plethora of offers which scream out of travel agents' windows, this is not an overly generous deal. What it should ensure is a steady stream of customers prepared to pay 90 per cent of the brochure price for Thomson's holidays, with no thought of looking at what rivals may offer. So what is Thomson now doing to appease those who failed to turn their early registrations into successful share applications? Why, offering them the chance to join this same, no longer quite so exclusive, club.

The scheme should bolster the profitability of the company and add to the attraction of Thomson shares, as an investment if not a conveyor of valuable perks. But the circumstances which prompted the arrangement do the City no credit. Delays in posting applications, problems with mailing houses and the inconvenient intervention of a Bank Holiday are limp excuses. It was clear from the start that the share offer was going to catch the public interest and the company's advisers should have ensured that they could cope.

Mum knows best

MATALAN claims to be a unique retail concept. It is seeking a high price for shares in a downmarket discount chain. The founder and his children are retaining a major stake in the business after the float but his wife's decision to take out £23 million at this stage does raise suspicions. Perhaps Mrs Hargreaves believes that more than 19 times historic earnings is a full price and there are better bargains to be found elsewhere.

Hillsdown unveils demerger and payout proposals

By Sarah Cunningham

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS yesterday revealed plans for a radical restructuring which will see it demerging or selling more than half of the group and returning up to £400 million to shareholders.

It plans to demerge its chilled foods division and its Fairview new homes housebuilding business, and to sell its furniture business and some other smaller food businesses. Hillsdown will be left as a "focused grocery foods group". It will still have the Typhoo tea, Chivers Hartley jams, HL canned foods and Cadbury and Maryland cookie brands.

The group expects the disposals to raise up to £600 million and for the majority to be returned to shareholders, possibly through one or more special dividend payments. It is looking for the most tax-efficient way of returning the cash before making any commitments. Michael Teacher, who is head of the ambient food division and is lined up to take over as group chief executive from George Greener later this summer, said that some funds will be needed to pay off some debts, which currently total more than £300 million.

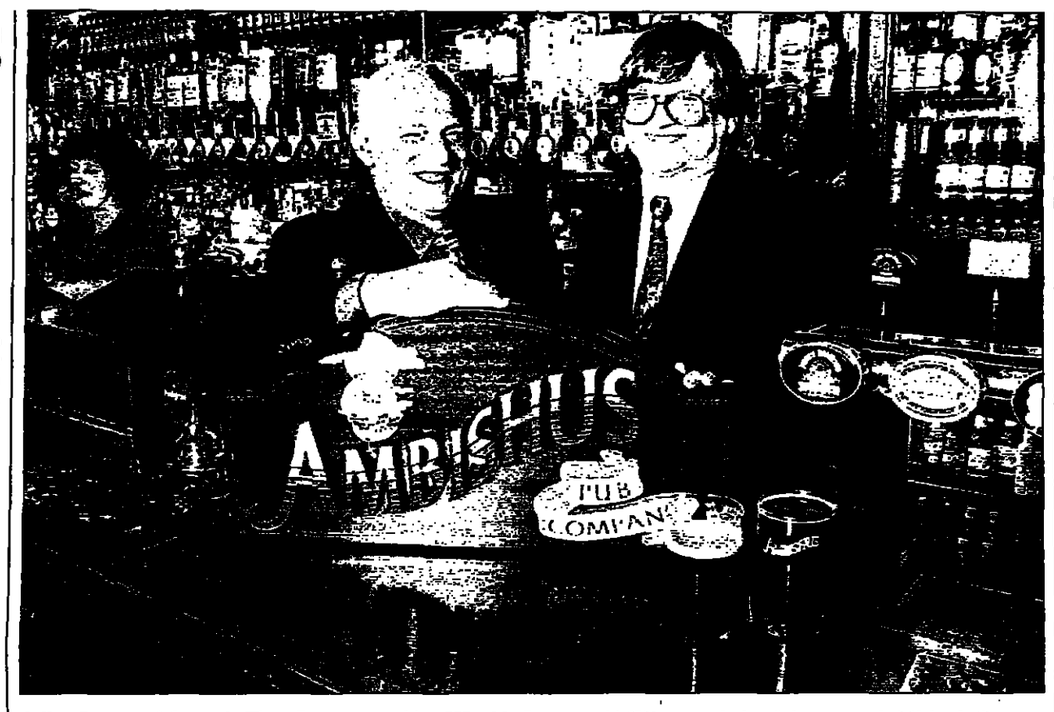
The demergers are likely to happen in October. The disposals are planned for late this year or early next year. The sales memorandum for the furniture business is being prepared. Analysts welcomed the plans, but said they would like to see more details on costs and tax liabilities.

Mr Teacher said demerger had been chosen for Fairview and the chilled foods division because no tax would be payable. "We would have had to get a very big price to make them worth selling," he said. The company is planning to sell its poultry division. Before that, Buxted foods — which manufactures chilled poultry, vegetable and fish dishes — will go into the chilled foods part of the group.

Other parts of the business for sale are the potatoes, continental biscuit and wine and spirit operations. Schroders and Kleinwort Benson are to handle the demergers and disposals.

The chilled food business set for demerger is a big player in Germany, Benelux, Denmark and Spain. In the UK it supplies sandwich, delicatessen and chicken and salmon-based products to Marks & Spencer. Terry Stanard, the current head of the division, will be chief executive of the independent company.

Tempus, page 31



Colin Stevens, left, and Tim Fearn, directors of Ambishus Pub Company, who yesterday saw its shares almost triple in value as trading in the pub operator began on the Alternative Investment Market (Dominic Walsh writes). The shares, placed at 100p, closed at 265p, after touching 325p. Mr Stevens said: "We are absolutely ecstatic about the reaction of the market." He, Mr Fearn and Philip Snook are the three former Magic Pub Company executives behind Ambishus, whose backers include pub and restaurant entrepreneurs such as David Bruce, Luke Johnson and Michael Cannon. Ambishus, formed in November through the purchase of 31 pubs from Regent Inns and Grosvenor Inns, plans to double in size within a year. The placing raised no new money. New shares will be issued to fund acquisitions. Tempus, page 31

Guinness Flight directors accept bid

By Jason Nisse

THE directors of Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management are to receive more than £25 million after ending their resistance to the fund manager's takeover by Investec, the South African investment bank.

Yesterday they agreed to merge with Investec Asset Management to create a business with more than £12 billion under management.

The senior managers of Guinness Flight will receive the sum for just 12 per cent of the company, though they also have options over another 8 per cent of the shares to take their stake to 20 per cent.

Until recently Guinness Flight was a three-way venture with Guinness Mahon owning 44 per cent and Hambros owning 44 per cent.

Earlier this year Investec agreed to buy Guinness Mahon from Bank of Yokohama for £95 million.

However, Howard Flight and Tim Guinness, Guinness Flight's chief executive, said they were not happy with Investec as a shareholder and would be exploring other ownership options.

These options narrowed just over a week ago when Investec stuck a deal to buy the remaining assets of Hambros — which had earlier sold its banking business to Société Générale and said it was selling its stakes in Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency business, and Hambro Insurance Services.

This gave Investec 88 per cent of Guinness Flight and there was a realisation that resistance was futile.

DLJ Phoenix, the merchant bank, engineered the deal, which is understood to have valued the business at more than £130 million.

Yesterday Mr Guinness said: "We have concluded that it was in the best interests of all our shareholders, clients and staff to reach a speedy agreement in order to minimise uncertainty about our future ownership."

Pillar buys two more shop parks

By Kathy Lipari

PILLAR PROPERTY announced a three-way joint-venture yesterday to acquire Fosse Park Shopping Park in Leicester and its adjoining Fosse Park South retail park for £205.5 million.

The partnership is between Pillar, Schroder Exempt Property Unit Trust and SITQ International. The deal is the second partnership between Schroder and Pillar following the purchase of Monks Cross Shopping Park in York earlier this year. Pillar has a £250 million shopping centre joint-venture also with SITQ called PillarCaisse.

The latest joint-venture has agreed to purchase the centre from SPP Investment Management for £145.5 million and the retail park, which was bought by Pillar for £52.2 million a year ago, for £60 million. All parties will invest an equal amount into the venture but Pillar will manage the two parks, which have an equivalent yield of 6 per cent from the rental income.

Pillar's retail park portfolio will total 20 properties. Raymond Mould, the chairman of the company, said the purchase presented the company with "numerous opportunities to improve both parks and further establish the area as the premier out-of-town retail destination in the UK."

Tempus, page 31

Fortune Oil says Asia's crisis is not all bad news

By Matthew Barbour

FORTUNE OIL, the London-listed Hong Kong investment and fuel distribution company, sought to reassure investors about its prospects after the 1997 results showed the impact of the Asian economic crisis.

The company, which has been investing heavily in China, said that although it would be unrealistic for the country to remain unscathed by the crisis, China's long-term prospects remain bright.

Fortune's net profits for the year to end December, at £3 million, were 9 per cent up on the previous year. The company spent much of the year preparing for the imminent start-up of three new projects and the group blamed an increase in administrative and sales costs for the modest rise in profitability.

Its largest project, due to start trading this month, is the Bluesky Aviation joint venture, which will have a 25-year monopoly in providing aviation fuel to 16 airports in central and southern China. The deal was the first time that China had allowed a foreign company to participate in aviation fuel supply on a regional scale.

Barry Cheung, the chief executive, said: "This is by no means a mature market, but that is not to say there is no opportunity for growth. We know that what we have invested in will not start paying-up in the short term, but we expect to be kept very busy for the next 25 years at least.

"We are a start-up company and we are in there for the long-haul."

Fortune already has a well-established series of fuel infrastructure and distribtuion joint ventures with the Chinese government.

Fortune was created in 1993 through a reverse takeover of Blackland Oil, a UK oil exploration and production company with a USM quotation by Hong Kong-based Kingsleigh Petroleum, an oil trading company.

There is no dividend again.

Mystery suitor eyes Concentric

By Matthew Barbour

CONCENTRIC, the engineering company, yesterday admitted it had received a bid approach after its share price mysteriously soared 34p to 141p. The identity of the potential buyer was not revealed.

The company, headed by John Towers, former Rover chief executive, has seen its share price tumble from more than 200p two years ago to a low of 101p earlier this year.

Since joining the group in October 1996 Mr Towers has sought to revitalise the business, jettisoning underperforming operations and making selective acquisitions.

Concentric plunged into the red last year when it was simultaneously hit by restructuring charges and the strong pound, affecting sales in Europe. It reported a £3.9 million annual loss in 1997, compared to £10.7 million profit in the previous 12 months.

Tony Firth, the chairman, said that the company would focus on overseas operations. He added that opening a sales office in Japan may lift exports to the Far East by 20 per cent this year.

At yesterday's closing share price of 138p, Concentric was valued at more than £65 million. The group has a turnover of £150 million.

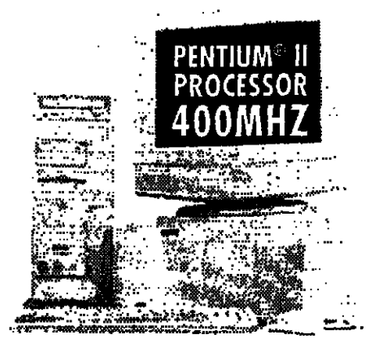
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Music companies in a spin over takeovers

With PolyGram and EMI effectively up for sale, Chris Ayres speculates on who will buy



PolyGram has blamed its weak release schedule, although an All Saints album sold more than a million copies

There have never been so many musical metaphors echoing around the City. For the past week, turbulence in the music industry has led to talk of companies doing merger dances, playing bid tunes and facing the music, while their boardrooms, inevitably, have been filled with discord.

The record industry is, of course, used to operating amid conflict and controversy. Armani-clad executives have long battled to reconcile the cut-throat business of selling circular pieces of plastic with the lofty ideals of spaced-out rock stars. But music companies currently face a much tougher task than trying to persuade anarchist pop stars not to throw buckets of water over the Deputy Prime Minister: they must fight for their very existence, as the distribution of their core product is snatched away by modern technology.

It is therefore hardly surprising that over the past two weeks, the world's two biggest music companies — EMI and PolyGram — have effectively been put up for sale. The questions now are who, if anyone, will buy them, and whether the industry faces a prolonged period of traumatic consolidation?

Jeff Meys, an analyst with ABN Amro, the investment bank, says: "The trouble is, there can only be so many buyers." He adds that there are only six major record companies in the world, and not all of them are in a position to make deals. However, given the penchant for rival music industry executives to sip Burgundy together in trendy brasseries, there is likely to be plenty of intriguing speculation to come.

The trouble started in January when EMI, the only major music company not part of a larger corporation (and an obvious takeover target since its demerger from Thorn in 1996), issued a profits warning blamed on Asian markets.

Then, just when the company needed strong management the most, a *Carry On Up The Charts* boardroom farce ensued. The plot went something as follows: Sir Colin Southgate, EMI's chairman, decided at the last minute not to become non-executive even though he had accepted a demanding outside job sorting out the Royal Opera House. Meanwhile, Jim Fifield, head of EMI's operations in the US, was unexpectedly turned down for the job of group chief executive. He promptly left with a £12.5 million pay-off. Then, for good measure, the company's UK president and chief executive, Jean-François Cecillon, also left, after management failed to renew his contract.

As EMI looked increasingly vulnerable to a bid (its shares fell to 430p from above 700p), PolyGram, whose controlling shareholder is Philips, the Dutch electronics group, also put out a profits warning. It blamed its problems mainly on a weak release schedule in the first quarter: only two albums, from All Saints and Andrea Bocelli, sold more than a million copies, compared with five million copies sold by U2 alone in the same period the previous year.

It was at this point that intense press speculation over a possible takeover of EMI forced the music company to admit that it had received a bid approach. Kirk Kerkorian, the US corporate raider, was mentioned, but there was an overwhelming consensus that the offer had instead come from Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainments group that owns Universal.

Just as the market was digesting the fact that EMI — an organisation whose back catalogue includes the Beatles and the Spice Girls — could be sold to a Canadian company, Philips dropped another bombshell. The company said it was reviewing its 75 per cent stake in PolyGram — a signal, perhaps to Seagram, that EMI was not the only music company up for grabs.

There are several compelling reasons why companies such as Philips and many institutional shareholders want out. In the West, music markets are falling in value because people no longer need to replace cassettes with CDs. Figures out last week show a 5 per cent fall in European market value to $12.7 billion and a 2 per cent fall in the US to $12.9 billion. Also, according to a note this week by Crédit Lyonnais, young people, the main buyers, are becoming a smaller proportion of the population.

Added to this, there is fear that digital broadcasting and online sales of music may take away revenues from music companies. Rob Dickins, head of the British Phonographic Industry, has already launched an attack on companies such as Music Choice, which will offer 50 channels of uninterrupted music (each devoted to an individual genre) on BSkyB's digital satellite service. Technology such as audio streaming over the Internet and recordable CDs also pose a serious threat.

Record companies claim that developing countries still represent a vast untapped market, especially for CDs. But there are, again, serious problems. The Asian economic crisis was partly to blame for a 14 per cent fall in market value to $8.3 billion last year.

But the biggest threat to record companies in these market is piracy — or illegally produced recordings. A recent analyst's note says: "Around one fifth of CDs sold are currently pirated. Technolgical developments suggest no relief."

The immediate future for the traditional record industry looks bleak, at least until issues surrounding digital broadcasting and online distribution are resolved. Meanwhile, it is far from clear how the bid speculation surrounding EMI and PolyGram will be resolved.

Music Week, the music industry bible, this week published its odds on likely takeover candidates for EMI. Its favourite at 5/1 was Seagram, run by Edgar Bronfman Jr. Most analysts and City commentators agree that the two companies would be a good geographic fit, although the Canadian company could find it difficult to raise the estimated $8 billion needed to buy EMI. However, it could easily sell its Tropicana drinks division or its $900 million stake in Time Warner.

One analyst, however, urges caution, arguing that Mr Bronfman's track record would make a large deal difficult. "If you are Edgar Bronfman, can you imagine having to ask Grandpa Bronfman and Daddy Bronfman to hand you the family chequebook so you can make an $8 billion acquisition? It seems unlikely, but of course they do not have to buy all the company. They could take a strategic stake." Given Seagram's recent poor performance, some have even speculated that instead of taking over EMI or PolyGram, the company could sell its Universal entertainment division.

Music Week's less likely buyers for EMI included — at 15/1 — Bertelsmann, the German entertainment giant, which analysts believe is too busy swallowing its recent $1.4 billion (£800 million) acquisition of Random House, the publisher, to pull off another large deal.

Walt Disney, which owns the US TV network ABC as well as theme parks and film studios was given odds of 20/1, while Sony, the Japanese electronics and music giant, was considered to have only a 60/1 chance of bidding. Most analysts have ruled out Sony on regulatory grounds.

Other unlikely candidates were seen as Viacom, owner of MTV (75/1); The News Corporation, parent company of the *The Times* (100/1); and DreamWorks, the entertainments group co-founded by the film director Steven Spellberg (150/1).

In many ways, however, the decision by Philips to review its stake in PolyGram lets EMI off the hook — something for which Sir Colin will no doubt be eternally grateful given the emotive issues surrounding a sale of a national treasure.

Crédit Lyonnais reckons that a single bidder could have to offer about 630p a share to buy EMI, rising to 750p in a contested bid. This could make PolyGram, which appears to be willingly up for sale, much more attractive. However, as John Prescott found out at the Brit awards two months ago, in the music industry, anything can happen.

Drinks dealmaker transformed into corporate grocer

IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: SIR GEORGE BULL

Born: 1936.
Career: in advertising and wine trade before joining IDV in 1961. Joined GrandMet board, 1985. Chairman and CEO of IDV, 1988. In 1992, became chairman and CEO of GrandMet's food division. Group chief executive, 1993. Chairman, 1996. Non-executive director of United News & Media and of J Sainsbury (to be chairman from September).

These are heady days for Sir George Bull. Having just overseen the £22 billion merger of Grand Metropolitan with Guinness, he has this week been appointed chairman of Britain's best-known grocer — this only days after being inducted into the Marketing Society's Hall of Fame as "one of the greatest champions and exponents of marketing and brand-building in British business".

All this is a far cry from his earliest days in the drinks industry, when he was an export salesman dealing in Hennessy cognac and Heidsieck champagne — a job that frequently involved flying around the Middle and Far East in a bi-plane. At a recent *Impact International* seminar in New York he showed a slide he'd taken in 1958 of a traditional long house in Borneo which he visited during one of his sales trips. Pointing out the row of human skulls hanging from the ceiling, he told the audience: "It's one of the only times the headhunters were really after me."

That episode demonstrates a trait that is frequently commented upon by those who know him — his self-deprecating sense of humour. Despite his manifold achievements, he cannot bring himself to claim direct credit for any of the many successes enjoyed by GrandMet during his 40 years with the company. "I just happened to be around for a long time when people in the company were doing some great things," he says.

Typically, it is only when it comes to the few low points in his career that he accepts responsibility. One of the rare lapses was the launch in the mid-1960s of Doçura, best described as a sweet red wine. "We got it on to the shelves, but it bombed out," he admits candidly.

Former colleagues speak of Sir George with great affection, noting his "great charm and courteous manner". One recalls: "Although not averse to raising his great booming voice when the occasion demanded it, he was always a team player who would go to great lengths to explain things so people got it right. He would always seek consensus, though not in a soft way."

He is clearly quite happy to use his sense of humour — and his booming voice — for dramatic effect. One industry friend recalls the time he addressed a gathering of executives from a loss-making division of IDV, GrandMet's spirits division. "He stood up to rally the troops wearing a British Army tin hat and delivered one of the great 'up and at 'em' speeches. It was rousing stuff and certainly had the desired effect."

This approach was probably something he picked up during his National Service as an officer in the Coldstream Guards when he narrowly avoided being sent out to the Suez Crisis.

"We were all kitted out on the tarmac waiting to go, but then we were suddenly put on standby and never went. We were bitterly disappointed at the time," Sir George says.

His subsequent rise through the ranks of GrandMet — he joined the board in 1985 — was characterised by a growing understanding of marketing and the importance of putting the company's muscle behind strong brands.

This approach made him a useful lieutenant to Sir Allen — now Lord — Sheppard as he set about the task of rationalising GrandMet from a sprawling collection of 32 disparate businesses into a food and drink giant focused on IDV, Burger King and Pillsbury. A high point was the acquisition in 1987 of Heublein, the US drinks group, which brought Smirnoff vodka into the IDV stable.

It was these skills that propelled Sir George into the chief executive's chair in 1993 ahead of Ian Martin, Sir Allen's heir-apparent and the now chairman of Unigate. Observers recognised it as a triumph for the marketing guru over the deal-making corporatist — a sentiment confirmed by his elevation to chairman in March 1996.

It was his belief in the power of global brands that drove him to propose a merger with GrandMet's great rival Guinness — a deal hatched almost exactly a year ago over dinner at London's exclusive Dukes Hotel when Sir George "popped the question" to a gobsmacked Tony Greener, the Guinness chairman.

Although the jury is still out on the longer-term benefits of the merger, the £2 it has added to the Diageo shareprice is an indication that the market believes Sir George has got it right.

When he announced he would be stepping down as co-chairman this summer, with his task complete, he cited a desire to spend more time with his wife "who keeps reminding me she married for life, not just for lunch".

But his appointment on Wednesday as non-executive chairman of J Sainsbury, a job he assumes in September, will bring her little comfort. Sir George, who is 62, says that although he is contracted for two days a week, he expects to work perhaps three or four days in the early months in an attempt to get to know the business quickly.

Although his food and drink experience will clearly be a benefit in his new role, it is his marketing skills that will be of most benefit to a company that has seen its market-leading position taken by Tesco.

Although Lord Sainsbury of Turville insisted this week that he was leaving the company in a far better position than it has been for some time, with a return to profit growth, Sir George will face a swathe of problems when he takes over the chair.

The biggest worry about Sainsbury's is that its sales growth continues to lag behind that of both Tesco and Asda. While the main responsibility for getting some momentum going will rest with Dino Adriano, group chief executive, the City will look to Sir George for ideas on the group's strategic direction. In particular, its expansion into the US with Shaws and Giant Food was very much Lord Sainsbury's pet project, but has been dogged with difficulties, and could be re-thought.

Sir George will also have the delicate task of keeping Sainsbury's shareholders happy, many of them Sainsbury family members who have seen their shares badly underperform in recent years.

It will take his full array of talents to restore its position as Britain's leading grocer.

DOMINIC WALSH



Sir George has a tough task

Road rage

TYRE irons at dawn in the increasingly nasty battle between those previously genteel motoring organisations, the AA and RAC. The row started when the AA accused the RAC of divided loyalties in accepting a £450 million bid for its motoring services side that generated a £35,000 bonus for each member but nothing for 5.7 million "associate members" who use the business. Then the RAC lets slip that the AA's director general, John Maxwell, and his three sons might be in line for bonuses as members.

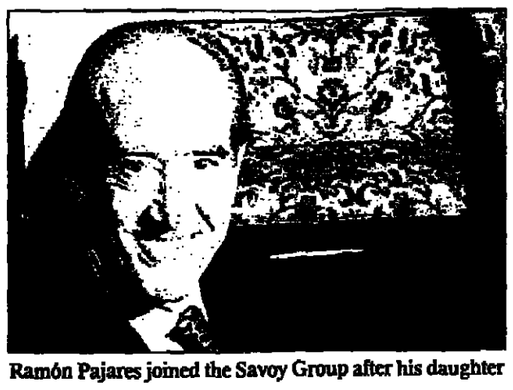
Now the AA has counter-attacked, saying Maxwell was only an honorary member of the RAC — a courtesy extended to him because of his AA job — and resigned his full membership five years ago. And anyway, says the AA, what is the RAC doing breaching privacy by disclosing personal membership details?

This row does no credit to either side. But there is one winner. John Maxwell's son Iain applied to join the RAC last year. Amazingly, his membership application was cleared in record time, so beating the deadline which would have seen him missing out on the £35,000 bonus.

☐ *A FIRE alarm went off at the International Petroleum Exchange yesterday morning, delaying the gas oil contract by half an hour as the place was evacuated. As* The Times *is a near-neighbour, I am understandably worried, and I ring to check on safety. A false alarm, apparently. I tell the lady at the IPE not to take any chances in the future, what with all that petrol lying around being traded. But she does not seem to be taking my concerns seriously.*

Like father ...

FLICKING through *Caterer & Hotelkeeper's* 1998 Acorn Award winners — the 30 most promising under-30s in the field — I come across Maria Pajares, aged 28, senior sales manager of the Savoy Group.



Ramón Pajares joined the Savoy Group after his daughter

Whose managing director is Ramón Pajares. No mention of whether he is her father, but I still call to protest at this clear display of nepotism. They are indeed father and daughter, the Savoy admits, but there is one flaw to my theory. "She was here first."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pay slip

THE annual report of Williams contains a curiosity, a proposed sharp cut in the salary of Sir Nigel Rudd, the chairman, this year. Jolly good thing, say I, let them eat cake — except that it is not quite so simple. He was paid £764,000 last year, and this will fall to £625,000 in 1998. In return he will be allowed to trouser the salary that he earns as chairman of Pilkington, which has in the past always been paid to Williams instead.

This will make up the shortfall and ensure that Rudd is kept in the style to which he is accustomed. It sounds pretty pointless to me, so I investigate further. It is all tied into the new bonus scheme which arrived in January at Williams. "It would be slightly unfair for him to be awarded a Williams bonus with some of his Pilkington money in it," I am told. Absolutely: especially the way Pilks has been doing in recent years.

Inn site

ACCOR, the French group, has secured planning permission to demolish a vacant building in Pepys Street and develop a 216-room Novotel, its three-star brand, at a cost of £10 million. Given the box-like structure of most Novotels, such as the one at Hammersmith, it is unlikely to add much to the City's architectural heritage, but I suppose we shouldn't complain. Sarah Holder, hotel property specialist at Healey & Baker, who found the site for Accor, says: "It will be the first new-build hotel in the Square Mile since ... forever."

☐ *THOSE curious people employed by the City to analyse derivatives and other weird creatures are facetiously known as "rocket scientists". Henry Green has arrived at fast-expanding Commerzbank as the new global head of quantitative research with a United Nations of a team, Germans, French, Japanese, all sorts, poached from around the City. He certainly fits the description. Green started his career at Nasa, where he worked on the launch of the first space shuttle.*

In the frame

GUILDHALL next Wednesday starts an exhibition of the work of Peter Jackson, who is reckoned to own the largest collection of books, pamphlets, drawings, maps and other such stuff on the subject of London in private hands. Jackson is an artist and illustrator whose work was used in the London *Evening News* for 31 years. But he is probably better known to older readers for his contribution to the back page of the *Eagle*, a regular slot on shcoolboy heroes. He is still painting at the age of 76.

MARTIN WALLER

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

BOC's price slides after Dresdner downgrading

A SWINGEING profits downgrading by one leading broker sent **BOC Group** slithering 33½p to 976½p ahead of second-quarter results next week. Brokers fear further bad news may be on the way.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, started the rot by cutting its forecast for the year from £440 million to £380 million and for 1999 from £470 million to £410 million. Kleinwort is worried about the impact of a strong pound and the worsening situation in South-East Asia on profits.

Analysts were quick to downgrade their forecasts earlier this year after disappointing first-quarter results. But there is a real fear among some of them that trading conditions for the industrial gases group have deteriorated even further since then.

The rest of the equity market endured another helter-skelter performance but managed to close on a high note inspired by an opening leap of almost 120 points on Wall Street.

Shares in London made a positive start fuelled by further gains among industrial companies in the face of another sell-off for the pound. But those early gains were reversed leaving the FTSE 100 *down almost 40 points at one* stage. It eventually closed 31.8 up at 5,969.8, a loss on the week of 40.5. It was outperformed by the FTSE 250 which closed 38.4 up at 5,741.1.

Fears among speculators *that Seagram would not* be coerced into paying top dollar for **EMI Group** were realised after the close of business. EMI, up 2p at 573p, is expected to open sharply lower when trading resumes on Monday. *Seagram revealed it was not* prepared to pay the sums being bandied around the Square Mile and will now take a look at Polygram, which the Dutch giant Philips put up for sale earlier this week.

Vickers moved ahead 10p to 245½p in early trading. The news that it had reneged on the terms of an agreed bid from BMW for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars came after the close of trading on Thursday. *The increased terms from* Volkeswagen will raise the cash finding its way back into Vickers's shareholders pockets from 55p to 80p a share.

Further speculative buying lifted **Christie's International** 21½p *to 317p. Earlier this week* the French group Artemis bought a near 30 per cent stake in the fine art auctioneer from billionaire financier Joe Lewis for an undisclosed sum.



Speculative buying lifted Christie's International shares

A visit by brokers and fund managers to **Dalgety's** operations in Kentucky could pro*vide a boost to its shares next* week. Brokers say the message is likely to be positive. The price firmed 2p to 401p.

In financials, **NatWest** fall short of last year's £430 million with brokers forecasting a final number of between £370 million and £375 million.

Rival **J Sainsbury**, which pleased the market with profits news earlier in the week, *slipped 2p to 520½p.*

SDX Business Systems has joined the clutch of companies to receive a bid approach this week. The price climbed 58p to

AB Airlines firmed 2p to 97½p. The company moved up from AIM a few weeks ago, after a placing at 95p. But the price has been held back by an overhang of loose stock, which has now been cleared. Brokers say hang on for the ride. AB holds a number of lucrative slots at Gatwick, which should prove profitable.

Bank *retreated 8p to £12.10* after Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, reduced its recommendation for the shares from "hold" to a "trading sell". It reckons the shares look to expensive compared with the *sector. The company bought a* further 1.1 million of its own shares yesterday.

Safeway was a nervous market ahead of results next week with the price firming 3p *to 368p after briefly touching 353p. Profits are expected to* 353½p *where the group is* valued at £125 million. **Concentric** says it is also in talks with a potential suitor. The news lifted shares of the engineering group 38p at 145½p. At this level, it carries a *price tag of £78 million.*

Waverly Mining, the mining finance group, held steady at 19p despite claims that **Rackwood Mining**, unchanged at 25p, may be looking to make a bid. Waverley is *capitalised at £8.5 million.*

But the breakdown in bid talks sent **Trust Motor** tumbling 31p to 165p. The company was in talks with some of its own management. The group is now sitting down with Hambro, its financial adviser, to look at strategy.

It was the first day of dealings in the **Ambishus Pub Company**, whose share regis*ter reads like a Who's Who of* pub and restauarant entrepreneurs. Placed at 100p by Sutherlands, the broker, the price opened at 217½p and frothed up to 325p before closing at 265p.

A profits warning left **Laird Group** nursing a fall of 8½p at 465p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that *profits in the first four months* had fallen short of the level reached during the corresponding period last year.

Lonrho Africa, which was demerged from the Lonrho parent company earlier this week, continued to make headway adding 9p at 94p. Turnover reached almost 2 million shares.

MMT Computing was a firm market rising 20p to £11.95 ahead of figures next week. The information and technology specialist has seen its price rush up from around the 980p level during the past couple of weeks.

Brokers have been visiting **Capita Group's** operations in Darlington. It is hoped the information and technology group will have a positive message for them. The price *climbed 28½p to 547½p.*

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Bond prices in London took their lead from firmer German bunds. But the stronger than expected US employment numbers saw US Treaury *bonds come under early sell*ing pressure and took the shine off the gains achieved in London.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed £3/16 better at £108 7/16 as a total *of 56,000 contracts were com*pleted. The short dated future was £0.08 better at £108.92 in thin turnover of 115 contracts. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £13/32 to £127 29/32 while Trea*sury 7 per cent 2002 was* £1/16 firmer at £103 3/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street cheered the latest US employment data and became more bullish on prospects for interest rates. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 93.42 at 9,070.10.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
EMI Group	573p	-27p	Bid talks aborted
Christie International	317p	+28½p	Artemis buys 30 per cent
Aspen Group	100p	-12½p	Bid talks breakdown
Spargo Consultants	317p	+38p	Bid talks
Cliveden	92½p	+13½p	Bid approach
SDX Bus. Systems	353½p	+76p	Bid approach
Scholl	450½p	+78p	Merging with Seton Healthcare
Jeyes Group	242p	+82½p	IWP bids 250p a share
J Sainsbury	*520½p*	*+42½p*	*Results beat forecasts*

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9070.10 (+93.42)
S&P Composite	1108.84 (+13.70)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15149.00 (+5.97)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10060.38 (+88.45)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	1163.98 (+20.64)
Sydney:	
AO	2780.5 (-0.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5257.58 (+71.35)
Singapore:	
Straits	1420.75 (-7.75)
Brussels:	
General	18234.48 (+143.59)
Paris:	
CAC-40	Closed
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1566.30 (+9.80)
London:	
FT 30	3892.0 (+26.6)
FTSE 100	5969.8 (+31.8)
FTSE 250	5741.1 (+38.4)
FTSE 350	2887.9 (+16.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2794.16 (+20.87)
FTSE All-Share	2819.13 (+16.00)
FTSE Non Financials	2839.19 (+14.61)
FTSE Fixed Interest	141.35 (-1.06)
FTSE Govt Secs	104.59 (+0.22)
Bargains	61297
SEAQ Volume	860.2m
US$	1.6365 (-0.0095)
German Mark	2.8950 (-0.0082)
Exchange Index	103.0 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4778
£:SDR	1.2238
RPI	160.8 Mar (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.9 Mar (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AB Airlines	97½	+ 2
ARM Hldgs (575)	812½	...
Aberdeen Cnvtble C	100	+ ½
Ambishus Pub Co	265	...
Ascot B	61	...
Captain OM Watts (4)	5	...
Close Bros AIM VCT	100	...
Desire Petroleum	160½	+ ½
Do Warrants	1	...
GRE Red Prf B	20	...
JWE Telecom	124½	- 1
Lonrho Africa	94	+ 9
Murray VCT 3 (100)	97½	...
Transport Dev B	36	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Avocet Mining n/p (60)	1¼	...
Freeprt Leis n/p (325)	43	...
Guinness Pt n/p (20)	11½	...
Magnum Pwr n/p (12)	5½	...
Memory Crp n/p (20)	12	+ ½
Mon Oil & Gas n/p (55)	5½	+ 1¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
SDX Bs Sys	353½p (+58p)
Micro Focus	530p (+57½p)
Brent Chems	107½p (+11p)
Total Sys	*127½p (+10p)*
Tate & Lyle	495p (+35p)
Reuters	665p (+38½p)
Hall Eng	250p (+14p)
Br Borneo	*382½p (+14p)*
Forth Ports	665p (+22½p)
BTG	664p (+22p)
Vickers	245½p (+10p)
Shield Diag	595p (+22½p)
Unilever	669p (+24½p)
Volex	586p (+21p)
BPB	420p (+20p)
FALLS:	
Trust Motor GP	165p (-31p)
Real Time	532½p (-20p)
Dank Bs Sys	321p (-11½p)
3i	575p (-12p)
GUS	873p (-15p)
Alliance & Leic	838p (-14p)
Tesco	560p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

The upside of Hillsdown

THERE will not be a lot left of the company that Sir Harry Solomon built up once Hillsdown has — it hopes — completed its demergers and sell-offs early next year.

Given the scope of the plans revealed yesterday, *with chilled foods and Fairview* Homes being demerged and the furniture business up for sale — leaving not a lot more than Typhoo tea and Maryland cookies in the *Hillsdown tuck box — the shares' reaction* may have appeared muted. But although the restructuring route the company has chosen may appear to be slightly more ambitious than the one it signalled earlier this year, the expectation in the market was that a full-scale overhaul would have to be forthcoming, and the shares had therefore already risen to match their estimated break-up value.

There is some possible upside in that the housebuilding business, which is thought to be valued at about £200 million, may turn out to be worth a little more, while the furniture side could fetch as much as £250 million. With a fair wind, it is not impossible that the group *will raise as much as £650 million from the* whole exercise, and then return about half to shareholders.

The downside to the shares is that the costs *and tax liabilities have not yet been detailed.* Moreover, holders will soon end up with three shares in rather small companies, and may prefer to have their money invested in a less fragmented fashion.

The market looks to have done a good job in valuing the shares, and there is little point in buying now. The choice is to take profits now, or hold on in the hope that a little more than expected money can be raised.

BAe

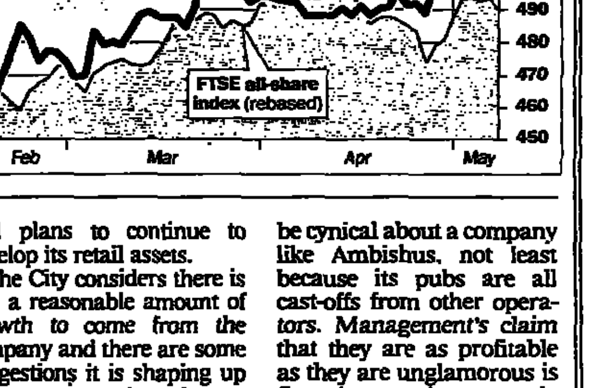
EXPLAINING his mega-merger with Chrysler on Thursday, Jürgen Schrempp, the chairman of Daimler-Benz, tried to dampen speculation that some or all of Dasa, its aerospace arm, might now *be sold to British Aerospace.*

BAe shares had risen 6 per cent the day before, when analysts concluded that, since Daimler Chrysler will be focused on cars, aerospace will be non-core.

But Herr Schrempp's insistence that nothing is for sale has failed to restrain the BAe share price. The shares, tipped at 462p here in February, rose a further 9p to 542p yesterday. Put simply, analysts believe that it is just a matter of time before Daimler-Benz bows to the inevitable and strikes some sort of deal with other European aerospace stalwarts. The market's refusal to believe Herr Schrempp or BAe's denials is rooted in BAe's willingness to lead the restructuring of Europe's aircraft makers.

British Aerospace is becoming a magnet for the more mobile players, such as Saab.

It is known to want to buy or merge with parts of Dasa. There is a question mark over whether it would want to get into helicopters, for instance, but the Eurofighter, Airbus and missiles activities could all be attractive. Such speculation will continue to drive the share price higher, and, even at *these levels, BAe is worth* buying.



Pillar Property

PILLAR is benefiting from a shift in focus to the retail *property market to exploit* the strong demand for shopping parks. The retail market now comprises about 82 per cent of Pillar's total portfolio after the latest joint venture, with Schroder Exempt Prop*erty Unit Trust and SITQ In*ternational, announced yesterday.

When Pillar came to the stock market in 1994 its exposure to retail property was just 21 per cent. Original*ly priced at 150p, the shares* have risen steadily, tracking the performance of the retail property sector.

At the current level of 328½p the stock might look expensive on an expected net asset value of around 253p, earnings per share of 7.5p for the year to March 31 1998 and an anticipated net asset value of at least 296p for 1999. However, Pillar's management has a good record in enhancing shareholder value and plans to continue to develop its retail assets.

The City considers there is still a reasonable amount of *growth to come from the* company and there are some suggestions it is shaping up as a very attractive takeover proposition. Investors should hold onto this one for the medium term.

Ambishus

THE reception given to the appropriately named Ambishus Pub Company took even the most optimistic *backers by surprise. Placed* at 100p, the shares ended their first day's trading at 265p having at one point touched 325p.

If this were a main market flotation one would be tempt*ed to say that whoever organ*ised it had seriously undervalued the issue. But as this was a fledgeling pub operator making its debut on AIM it was always going to be finger in the air stuff.

There are lots of excuses to be cynical about a company like Ambishus, not least because its pubs are all cast-offs from other opera*tors. Management's claim* that they are as profitable as they are unglamorous is fine, but as it was only founded in November it is impossible to make a judgment based on the usual fi*nancial criteria.*

The comfort for investors is the track record of the management. All were previously involved with Devenish and the Magic Pub Company, both of which were sold for *large sums to regional brew*ers. The swath of successful pub entrepreneurs who have backed Ambishus is also a vote of confidence.

But the question new investors will be asking is *whether the first-day rise* leaves anything for them. What is certain is that the board will use the high rating to issue paper for rapid expansion, so shareholders will need to keep their *chequebooks at the ready.*

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1112-1107	Jul	1215-1210
Jul	1131-1130	Sep	1228-1225
Sep	1150-1148	Dec	unq
Dec	1169-1167		
Mar	1188-1185		
May	1200-1195	Volume:	4142

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1986-1985	Jan	1715-1700
Jul	1846-1845	Mar	1670 BID
Sep	1790-1781	May	unq
Nov	1750-1740	Volume:	2412

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	272.4-70.2
Spot 265.2		May	276.4-73.7
Aug	262.5-62.0	Aug	279.9-78.2
Oct	262.9-62.0	Oct	282.9-73.2
Dec	267.9-66.0	Volume:	2113

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on May 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	69.91	114.84	86.90
(+/-)	+0.80	+11.57	+2.66
Eng/Wales:	69.91	117.49	86.46
(+/-)	+0.80	+11.58	+3.24
(%)	+31.0	+24.0	-4.0
Scotland:	unq	97.28	88.50
(+/-)	...	+13.31	+1.37
(%)	...	+38.0	-25.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.15	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Jul)	14.75	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Jul)	14.90	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	15.30	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	16.00	-0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	159 (+1)	161 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	135 (-2)	137 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	65 (-1)	68 (n/c)
Naphtha	151 (+2)	153 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	133.75 BID	Aug	140.50 SLR
Jun	134.75-35.00	Sep	n/a
Jul	137.00-37.50	Vol:	35155

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	14.73-14.74	Sep	15.39 SLR
Jul	14.88 SLR	Oct	15.60-15.62
Aug	15.12-15.15	Vol:	68731

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	78.25	May	77.00
Jul	80.25	Sep	76.00
Sep	78.40	Nov	78.00
Nov	80.40	Jan	80.00
Jan	82.40	Mar	82.00
Volume: 474		Volume: 50	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Jun	unq	138.0
Nov		75.0
Mar		110.0
		Volume: 124

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jun 46.25-48.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 98	unq	—	970
Jun 98	—	—	935
Jul 98	—	—	930
Oct 98	1050	1050	1050
Vol: 5 lots		Open interest:	1000

Index 1004 n/c

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1779.0-1780.0	1788.0-1789.0	192100
Lead ($/tonne)	540.50-541.00	556.00-557.00	167125
Zinc Spec HI Gde ($/tonne)	1085.5-1086.0	1109.0-1109.5	536050
Tin ($/tonne)	5825.0-5830.0	5740.0-5745.0	25580
Aluminium HI Gde ($/tonne)	1376.0-1377.0	1400.0-1401.0	320700
Nickel ($/tonne)	5325.0-5330.0	5415.0-5420.0	147714

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
ASDA	180	19	24½	29½	6½	11½	12½
(*189½)	200	8½	16	20	16½	22	23
Abbey Nat	1100	81	124	153½	51	80	99½
(*1115)	1150	56½	99	129	77½	105	125
All&Leic	800	75½	103½	120	26	44½	52½
(*839½)	850	46½	77½	95	48½	68½	76
Alld Dom	600	46½	71	80	15½	30	39
(*639½)	650	21½	45½	55	40½	54½	64
BAA	600	39½	58	70	19½	29½	37
(*621)	650	16½	34½	46	46	56	63
BAT Ind	550	57	73½	90½	19½	38½	44
(*581)	600	30	51½	66	42½	61	68½
Barclays	1700	145½	204	253	58	101½	126
(*1765)	1800	89½	154	203½	105	150	174½
Bass	1050	74½	105½	—	49½	62	—
(*1090)	1100	64	89½	103½	64½	77	91½
Boots	900	62½	87½	108	39	53½	60
(*927½)	950	38	64	82½	65	73½	84½
Br Airways	650	37½	63½	79½	35½	52	62
(*654½)	700	18	44½	58½	67	81½	91
BP	900	83	113½	130	29½	50	58½
(*949)	950	55½	88½	105	47½	74	82
Br Steel	160	11½	16	19½	10½	14½	17½
(*165)	180	3½	8½	11½	24	27	30
C&W	600	68½	86	103½	17½	32	42½
(*643½)	650	41	62½	79½	38	54	66½
GU	1100	96½	130	154	44½	65½	81½
(*1138½)	1150	70½	105	129	69	89½	105½
GlaxoW	1700	108	169½	219½	91	139	163½
(*1702½)	1800	67½	126	173½	149½	195½	218
HSBC	1800	131½	202½	254	100½	180	184
(*1810)	1900	86½	158	206	156½	213½	236
Halifax	750	72	93	112½	15½	33½	38
(*796½)	800	42½	65½	86	35½	56	60½
ICI	1150	82	118½	146½	44	72	85½
(*1174)	1200	57	94½	123	68½	96½	110
Land Sec	1000	59	96½	112	35	57	63
(*1030)	1050	34	71	86	62	82	87½
M&S	550	26	44½	55½	27	38	42
(*551½)	600	9½	25½	35	62	67	72
Natl Pwr	550	37	59	72½	25	43	54½
(*562)	600	19½	39½	52½	66½	73	84½
Nat West	1200	86	128½	160	63½	96½	113
(*1207)	1250	62	106½	134	87	119½	138½
Reed Intl	500	65	82½	93	12½	24	26
(*548)	550	35	55	65½	32½	46	47½
Reuters	645	49½	76½	—	25	43½	—
(*662)	703	23½	51	—	57½	75	—
Ryl&Sun	650	66½	86	106	22	36½	45
(*682)	700	40½	61½	81½	45	61	69
Safeway	350	24½	37½	45	18½	29	34½
(*366½)	390	13½	36	32½	36	45½	51½
Sainsbury	500	34½	54	67	19	30½	37½
(*522½)	550	14½	32½	44½	47	56	64½
Shell	430	46½	61	70	7½	14½	19
(*456½)	460	24	37½	48	20½	30½	35½
SmKl Bch	700	57	88½	110½	39½	60½	73
(*709½)	750	35½	65½	87	67½	86½	99½
Std Chtr	650	96½	135	167	44½	72	94
(*890)	900	72	111½	144½	69	97½	119½
Thames W	900	70	83½	105½	32½	45½	55
(*937½)	950	43½	58½	81	58½	71	80½
Vodafone	650	57	84½	101	34	48	57½
(*669)	700	34	60	77	60	73½	82½
Woolwich	324	38	51	—	6½	17½	—
(*348½)	354	21½	38	—	21½	31½	—
Zeneca	2500	169½	255	328	93½	158	186½
(*2546)	2600	119	204	277½	142½	206½	234½
Prudentl	800	30½	82	106	13	48	65½
(*814½)	850	10	58	82	42	74	90½
Rio Tinto	850	25	72	97	14	45	66½
(*861)	900	6	48	73	44½	71½	92½
Redland	330	15½	16	—	½	0½	—
(*345½)	360	½	0½	—	15½	15½	—
R-Royce	280	18	33½	44	2	14	20
(*295½)	300	6	23½	34½	9½	22½	30
Tesco	550	18	44½	58½	11	29	44
(*561)	600	1	22	36	42½	57	71
Utd Bisc	260	20	31½	35½	1	6	12
(*279)	280	5½	20	24½	5½	13½	20½

	Series	Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
BTR	200	25½	34½	40½	1	6½	13
(*218½)	220	9	22½	29	3	14	21½
Blue Circ	360	12	36	47	7	24½	32
(*366)	390	1	22½	34	26	41	48½
Br Aero	525	23½	53½	72½	4	27½	38
(*542)	550	10	41½	60½	14½	39½	50½
Br Telcm	650	22	51½	69½	7½	32½	45
(*663½)	700	3	28½	47	38	58½	72½
Cadbury	850	44	87½	108	4	31	42½
(*886)	900	13	60½	82	23½	53½	65½
Carlton Cms	500	25	50	63	4½	25½	32
(*517)	550	7	29	43	34½	51	59
Energy Gp	800	39½	41	42	½	—	—
(*839)	850	1	2½	3	12½	16	14½
Gallaher	300	17	33	40	2	12½	22
(*315)	330	2	18½	25	17	27½	38
GEC	500	27½	54½	68	3½	23	37½
(*524)	550	3	30½	44½	28½	50	64
Diageo	613	119	—	—	—	—	—
(*730½)	671	61½	—	—	1	—	—
Diageo	729	18½	58	—	15½	43	—
(*730½)	787	2	32½	—	57½	78½	—
Hanson	330	30½	42½	50½	1	8	14½
(*359½)	360	6½	23½	33½	6½	20	27
Imp Tob	420	30½	43	54½	1	13	18
(*447½)	460	6½	22½	33½	14½	31	36½
Kingfshr	1000	38½	90	110½	11	44½	53
(*1028)	1050	12½	64½	84½	34½	68	76½
Lasmo	260	9	26½	35	3	12½	17
(*265½)	280	1½	17½	25	14½	23	26½
Ladbroke	300	25	40½	47	1	11½	17
(*324)	330	4½	24	31½	11	25	31
LucasVar	280	9	24½	35	6	18	23
(*287)	300	3½	16	25½	16	28½	33
P&O	850	36	70½	85½	5	27½	42
(*879)	900	8½	43	59	28	51	65½

	Series	Calls Jun	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Sep	Dec
BG	306	27	—	—	6	—	—
(*327)	330	13	26	35½	14	22	27½
BSkyB	420	23½	40	53	17	29	37½
(*423½)	460	8½	24	35½	40½	51½	59
Br Bio	60	13½	18½	22½	4½	8	11
(*69)	70	8½	14	19	8½	13½	17
Centrica	100	6	11½	15½	4½	6½	7½
(*102½)	110	2½	7½	11	10	12½	13
Dixons	550	45	65	84	6½	26	31
(*580)	600	18	39½	59½	30½	50	55
EMI	550	52	64½	81	23	43	50
(*570)	600	28	42½	58½	50	71	77½
Granada	1050	65½	101½	126	20½	45	58
(*1084)	1100	37	75½	102	41½	67½	81½
GUS	850	49½	83½	100½	21½	39½	56
(*873)	900	24½	57½	74½	47½	64	79
Lloyds TSB	900	48	88	113	41	69	56½
(*901)	950	27	65½	89½	70	96½	113
Lonrho	321	27½	36½	—	8	20	—
(*336)	353	12	22	—	24	37	—
Norwich	420	27	45½	59	14	26½	35½
(*429½)	460	11	29	41½	37½	49	57
Orange	420	33	54	68½	13	26½	35
(*435½)	460	15½	34½	49½	34½	47½	55½
Railtrck	1050	49½	89	116	50	73	94½
(*1050)	1100	29	68	93½	77	102	127½
Scot Pwr	550	31½	53	69½	22½	36	42½
(*566)	600	11	33	49	54½	65	70½
Tarmac	110	8	13	15½	3½	5½	8
(*115)	120	3	8	10½	8	10½	13
Tomkins	330	23½	32½	40	5½	15	18
(*346½)	360	8	17½	25½	13	30	33½
Unilever	650	40	65	79½	17½	33	40
(*667)	700	17½	41½	54½	44	59	64½

May 8 Total: 19788 Calls: 9839 Puts: 9949

FTSE INDEX (*5978)

Strike	Calls May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Dec	Puts May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Dec
5800	187½	308½	379	453	663	20½	117	166	217½	317
5850	144	273½	348½	423	—	28½	132½	184½	236½	—
5900	107½	240	319	393½	596½	44	152½	204½	255½	354½
5950	76	211½	289½	363½	—	63	173	225	275	—
6000	49½	182	260	334	531½	88	194½	246½	295	393½
6050	29½	152½	231	304½	—	121½	216½	269	316	—
6100	16½	133½	208	278	469	164½	245	297	341½	435½
6150	8½	112	187	256	—	214	276	326½	369½	—

May 8 Total: 4871 Calls: 2526 Puts: 2346 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 98	108-11	108-17	108-06	108-14	56388
Previous open interest 8	Sep 98				108.57	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	106.67	106.91	106.66	106.87	65944
Previous open interest 154117	Sep 98	106.45	106.50	106.45	106.49	98
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	102.88	102.92	102.80	102.92	115
Previous open interest 10120	Sep 98				104.27	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	118.55	118.75	118.45	118.67	31274
Previous open interest 135870	Sep 98				119.15	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	132.47	132.50	132.33	132.36	2340
	Sep 98	132.45	132.46	132.32	132.33	725
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.570	92.580	92.560	92.580	15660
	Sep 98	92.690	92.700	92.670	92.700	19288
Previous open interest 913139	Dec 98	92.870	92.880	92.830	92.860	31177
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.260	96.300	96.260	96.295	60218
Previous open interest 2397462	Sep 98	96.120	96.160	96.120	96.150	74971
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.270	95.270	95.240	95.250	43090
Previous open interest 1035414	Sep 98	95.750	95.780	95.730	95.770	22714
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.430	98.430	98.360	98.380	9814
Previous open interest 158072	Sep 98	98.260	98.260	98.190	98.200	11282
Three Mth ECU	May 98				95.740	0
Previous open interest 46791	Jun 98	95.750	95.750	95.740	95.740	80
FTSE 100	Jun 98	5960.0	6016.0	5935.0	5991.0	20157
Previous open interest 164946	Sep 98				6066.5	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 4 Week fixed: 7⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7 : 3 mth 7, Sell: 2 mth 6¾ : 3 mth: 6¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7¼-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7⅛-7¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7⅝	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Overnight: open 7¼ close 5.					
Local Authority Deps:	7¼	n/a	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.53	n/a	5.59	5.65	5.81
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applicts: £590m allotted: £100m: Bids: £98.27% received: 100%; Last week: £98.27% received: 45%: Avge rate: £6.9360% last wk £6.9342%: Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	4-3
French Franc:	3⅝-3⅛	3⅛-3⅝	3⅝-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3½-2¾
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1½	1½-¾
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $298.80-299.30 Close: $299.80-300.30 High: $300.50-301.00
Low: $298.70-299.20 AM: $299.15 PM: $300.40

Krugerrand: $301.00-303.00 (£184.00-186.00)

Platinum: $396.00 (£241.20) Silver: $5.995 (£3.655) Palladium: $325.50 (£198.30)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2601-3.2801	3.2601-3.2635	1¼-1pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	59.656-60.070	59.656-59.775	21-16pr	58-51pr
Copenhagen	11.024-11.095	11.024-11.034	¼-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Dublin	1.1496-1.1592	1.1513-1.1536	13-6pr	41-31pr
Frankfurt	2.8933-2.9103	2.8933-2.8959	¾-⅝pr	2⅛-2⅝pr
Lisbon	296.47-298.06	296.85-297.19	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Madrid	245.80-247.29	245.80-246.04	69-58pr	199-180pr
Milan	2853.3-2856.8	2853.3-2856.3	56-40pr	180-158pr
Montreal	2.3463-2.3550	2.3467-2.3499	0.53-0.47pr	1.03-0.94pr
New York	1.6358-1.6420	1.6360-1.6370	0.26-0.24pr	0.728-0.697pr
Oslo	12.093-12.176	12.097-12.109	⅛-⅛pr	1-½pr
Paris	9.7031-9.7640	9.7031-9.7123	3⅛-3⅛pr	9⅛-9pr
Stockholm	12.426-12.513	12.426-12.442	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	216.93-217.87	216.93-217.18	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Vienna	20.357-20.486	20.357-20.379	⅛-⅛pr	2-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.4098-2.4305	2.4160-2.4192	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5698-1.5710
Austria	12.46-12.47
Belgium (Com)	36.51-36.56
Canada	1.4345-1.4350
Denmark	6.7459-6.7479
France	5.9390-5.9410
Germany	1.7697-1.7703
Hong Kong	7.7493-7.7503
Ireland	1.4195-1.4215
Italy	1745.25-1745.85
Japan	132.50-132.60
Malaysia	3.8050-3.8150
Netherlands	1.9947-1.9952
Norway	7.3982-7.4002
Portugal	181.45-181.55
Singapore	1.6177-1.6207
Spain	150.23-150.48
Sweden	7.5954-7.6054
Switzerland	1.4772-1.4782

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6365-1.6392
Australia dollar	2.5664-2.5700
Bahrain dinar	0.614-0.628
Brazil real*	1.8711-1.8740
China yuan	13.501-13.810
Cyprus pound	0.8495-0.8695
Finland markka	8.7775-8.9265
Greece drachma	503.00-515.10
Hong Kong dollar	12.6689-12.6775
India rupee	64.81-66.31
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4965-0.5095
Malaysia ringgit	6.2204-6.2488
New Zealand dollar	2.9936-2.9993
Pakistan rupee	70.95 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.930-6.067
Singapore dollar	2.6459-2.6524
S Africa rand (com)	8.252-8.439
U A E dirham	5.9825-6.1205

Barclays Treasury *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	435	LASMO	1,427
ASDA Gp	14,131	Legal & Gn	5,468
Abbey Ntl	2,935	Lloyds TSB	6,668
Allied Dom	2,255	LucasVarity	2,981
Allnce & Leic	6,040	Marks Spr	6,208
Amvescap	1,019	Nat Grid	2,447
AB Foods	686	Nat Power	4,099
Bk of Scot	2,265	NatWst Bk	4,024
BAA	3,459	Next	2,720
Barclays	2,216	Norwich Un	7,183
Bass	767	Nycomed Amr	139
BAT Inds	3,570	Orange	1,609
BG	5,748	P & O	1,904
Billiton	3,076	Pearson	818
Blue Circle	2,047	PowerGen	1,956
BOC	2,750	Prudential	2,940
Boots	2,661	Railtrack	1,092
BAe	6,609	Rank Group	688
BA	3,496	Reckitt Col	522
Brit Energy	5,899	Reed Intl	4,554
Br Land	1,170	Rentokil	2,333
BP	6,009	Reuters	8,745
Brit Steel	5,397	Rio Tinto	3,226
BSkyB	1,792	Rolls Royce	8,969
BT	8,325	Royal & Sun	6,182
BTR	9,201	Royal Bk Sct	1,867
Cable Wire	11,964	Safeway	4,409
Cadbury	1,564	Sainsbury	6,108
Carlton Cms	4,173	Schroders	131
Centrica	3,812	Scot & New	1,261
Cm Union	1,899	Scot Power	2,980
Compass Gp	923	Svrn Trent	559
Diageo	6,927	Shell Trans	10,896
EMI	1,737	Siebe	1,491
Energy Gp	2,262	Smiths Ind	784
Enterpr Oil	6,960	SmKl Bch	10,267
Gen Acc	923	Std Chard	1,993
Gen Elec	10,400	Sun Life	205
GKN	1,006	Tesco	9,432
Glaxo Well	3,651	Thames W	542
Granada	3,159	Tomkins	2,655
GUS	20,865	Unilever	6,086
GRE	2,400	Utd News	3,093
Hays	404	Utd Utilities	1,368
ICI	1,587	Vodafone	6,421
Kingfisher	2,236	Whitbread	1,164
HSBC	6,218	Williams	2,166
Halifax	2,220	Wolseley	2,116
Ladbroke	4,941	Woolwich	4,042
Land Secs	3,051	Zeneca	1,230

WALL STREET

	May 8 midday	May 7 close
AMP Inc	39⅞	39¼
AMR Corp	149⅞	146⅞
AT & T	57⅞	57⅞
Abbott Labs	72⅛	71⅛
Advanced Micro	25⅛	25⅛
Aetna Life	80⅛	80½
Ahmanson (HF)	75⅛	74⅛
Air Prod & Chem	87½	87⅛
AirTouch Comm	50⅛	50⅞
Albertson's	46⅞	45½
Alcan Alumnm	32⅛	32⅛
Allied Signal	44	44⅛
Alum Co of Am	76⅞	75⅛
Amerada Hess	57⅞	56⅛
AEP	47⅛	46⅞
Amer Express	101⅞	99⅛
Amer Genl Corp	66½	66
Amer Home Pr	45⅛	45⅛
Amer Intl	127⅛	125⅞
Amer Online	89⅞	89⅞
Amer Stores	24⅛	24
Amer Standard	48⅛	48½
Ameritech	44⅛	43⅛
Amgen	58⅞	57½
Amoco	44	43⅞
Andrew Corp	22½	21½
Anheuser-Busch	46⅛	45⅞
Apple Computer	30⅛	30⅞
Archer Daniels	21⅛	20⅞
Armco	6⅛	6⅞
Armstrng Wrld	82⅛	82½
Asarco	24⅛	24⅞
Atl Richfield	80	79⅛
Atmel Corp	19	19
Auto Data Pro	64⅞	63⅞
Avery Dennison	51	50⅞
Avon Products	80½	80⅛
Baker Hughes	40⅞	41⅛
Baltim Gas & El	31½	31⅛
Banc One	56½	56½
BankAmerica	83½	81⅞
Bank of NY	58⅞	57⅛
Bankers Tr Crp	131⅞	130⅞
Bausch & Lomb	51⅞	51⅛
Baxter Intl	54½	54⅛
Becton Dicknsn	68⅞	67⅞
Bell Atlantic	95⅞	94⅞
BellSouth	64⅛	63½
Best Foods	53⅛	52⅛
Black & Decker	52⅛	52
Block (H&R)	44⅞	43⅞
Boeing	50⅞	49⅛
Boise Cascade	37⅞	37⅞
Boston Scien	72⅛	72⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	107⅞	105⅞
Browning Ferris	32⅞	32½
Brunswick	32½	31⅞
Burlington Nthn	100½	98⅛
CMS Energy Corp	43⅛	42⅞
CSX	54½	53⅞
CBS Corp	34½	33
Campbell Soup	54⅛	53⅞
Carolina Pwr	41⅞	41½
Case Corp	60⅞	60½
Caterpillar	56⅞	55⅞
Central & SW	27⅞	27
Champion Intl	53⅛	52⅛
Chase Manhat	137⅞	136⅞
Chevron Corp	85⅞	84½
Chrysler	53⅞	53½
Chubb Corp	77⅞	76½
Cigna Corp	212⅞	209⅞
Citicorp	149⅛	147
Clorox	82⅞	81
Coastal Corp	73⅛	74½
Coca Cola	76⅞	75½
Coca Cola Ent	37⅞	36⅞
Colgate-Palm	90⅞	88⅞
Columbia Energy	82	80⅞
ColumbiaHCA	32⅞	32⅞
Compaq Comp	32	32⅞
Comp Ass Int	60⅞	59½
Conagra	29⅞	29½
Cons Edison	44½	44⅛
Cons Nat Gas	56½	56½
Cooper Inds	68⅛	68½
Corning Inc	40⅛	40½
C'wide Credit	46⅞	46⅞
Crestar Finl	58	56⅞
Crown Cork	52½	51⅞
Dana Corp	54⅛	54
Dayton Hudson	43½	42⅛
Deere	57⅛	57½
Delta Air Lines	116½	114½
Deluxe Corp	34½	33⅛
Digital Equip	59½	59⅛
Dillard Dept St	37⅛	37½
Disney (Walt)	119⅛	119
Dominion Res	39⅛	38⅞
Donelley (RR)	44⅛	44⅛
Dover Corp	39⅞	39
Dow Chemical	98⅞	97⅛
Dow Jones	49⅛	48⅛
Dresser	51½	51⅞
Duke Energy	57⅛	56⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	34⅞	34⅞
Du Pont	74⅞	73½
Eastman Chem	69⅞	68⅛
Eastman Kodak	70⅞	72½
Eaton Corp	90⅞	90⅛

	May 8 midday	May 7 close
Edison Int	30⅛	29½
Elect Data Sys	37⅛	36⅞
Emerson Elec	63⅛	63⅛
Engelhard Corp	21⅛	21½
Enron Corp	52½	52⅛
Entergy	29⅞	29½
Ethyl Corp	7⅛	7⅞
Exxon	73⅛	73½
FDX Holding	65⅞	65⅞
FMC Corp	76⅞	76
FPL Group	60½	60⅞
Fifth Third Banc	50⅛	50½
Fleet Finl Grp	82⅛	80⅛
Fluor Corp	46⅞	46⅞
Ford Motor	46⅛	45½
Fort James	50	49⅞
Fortune Brands	36	35½
Franklin Res	55⅛	55⅞
GTE Corp	58⅛	57½
Gannett	66	65⅛
Gap Inc Del	52⅛	51⅞
Gateway 2000	55⅞	55⅛
Gen Dynamics	41⅛	41½
Gen Electric	83⅛	81⅞
Gen Mills	68⅞	67½
Gen Motors	68½	66⅛
Gen Reinsurance	219⅞	218
Gen Signal	42⅞	42⅞
Genuine Parts	35⅛	34⅛
Georgia Pac	79⅛	78⅞
Gillette	114⅞	113½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	55½	55½
Goodrich (BF)	52⅛	52½
Goodyear Tire	70⅞	69⅞
Great Lakes	49½	49½
Halliburton	53⅛	54½
Harcourt General	52⅛	52
Heinz (HJ)	54⅛	53
Hercules	46⅞	47⅞
Hershey Foods	71⅞	70⅞
Hewlett Packard	77⅛	76½
Hilton Hotels	32⅛	32½
Home Depot	68⅛	67½
Homestake Mng	11⅞	11½
Honeywell	90⅛	90
Household Intl	130½	130⅞
Houston Inds	29½	29⅛
Humana	27	26⅛
Ikon Office	24	23½
Illinois Tool	67⅛	66⅞
Illinova	29⅞	29⅞
INCO	16⅞	16½
Ingersoll Rand	46⅛	45⅞
Inland Steel	29⅞	28½
Intel Corp	83	81
IBM	118⅛	117⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	50	49½
Intl Paper	52⅛	52⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	70⅞	69⅛
Kellogg	41⅛	40⅛
Kerr-McGee	66½	66⅞
Kimberly-Clark	50	50
Kmart	18⅛	17⅞
Knight-Ridder	58⅞	58½
Lilly (Eli)	66⅞	66
Limited Inc	34½	34½
Lincoln Nat	88⅛	87⅞
Liton	60⅛	59⅞
Liz Claiborne	47⅞	47⅞
Lockheed Martin	111½	110
Louisiana Pac	20⅞	20⅞
MCI Comm	49⅛	49⅞
Manpower Inc	43⅞	43⅞
Marriott Intr	32½	32½
Marriott Int A	32⅞	32
Marsh & McLnn	87⅞	87
Masco Corp	58⅞	59
May Dept St	63½	63⅛
Maytag Corp	49⅛	49⅞
McDonalds	61½	61½
McGraw Hill	74⅛	74⅞
Mead Corp	35⅛	35
Meditrust Corp	28⅞	28½
Medtronic	49⅞	49⅛
Mellon Bk	68½	66
Merck Inc	117⅛	115
Mercury Fin	0⅞	0⅞
Merrill Lynch	87⅛	85⅞
Microsoft	85⅛	83½
Minnesota Mine	93⅞	92⅛
Mirage Resorts	23⅞	23½
Mobil Corp	79⅛	77⅛
Monsanto	53½	53⅛
Morgan (JP)	136⅛	135½
Motorola Inc	55½	55⅞
Mylan Labs	27½	27⅛
Natl Semi	21⅞	21½
Natl Service Ind	52½	52⅞
Navistar Int	29	28⅛
NY Times A	71½	71½
Newmont Mng	30⅛	30
Nike B	45⅞	45½
NL Industries	20½	20½
Nordstrom	66⅞	65⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	33⅞	32⅞
Niho State Pwr	56⅞	56½
Norwest Corp	38½	37½
Occidental Pet	29½	29⅞
Office Depot	33⅛	33½
Oracle	26½	26⅛

	May 8 midday	May 7 close
Oryx Energy Co	26⅞	25⅞
Owens Corning	40⅛	40⅞
PPG Industries	71½	70⅛
PMI Group	80⅛	79⅛
PNC Bank	59⅛	58½
PP&L Res	22⅛	22⅛
Paccar Inc	57	56⅞
Pacificorp	23⅛	23
Pac Enterprises	38⅞	37⅞
PaineWebber	45	44⅛
Pall Corp	20	19⅞
Parker Hannifin	44⅞	44
Peco Energy	23⅛	23⅛
Penney (JC)	70⅛	70⅛
Pennzoil	63⅞	63⅛
Pepsico	38⅞	38
Pfizer	109½	106⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	42⅞	40⅞
Phelps Dodge	66½	65⅛
Philip Morris	39⅛	38⅞
Phillips Pet	48⅛	48⅛
Pitney Bowes	48⅞	47½
Polaroid	43	42⅛
Procter & Gmbl	82⅞	80⅞
Providian	58⅞	58⅞
Pub Serv E & G	33⅞	33⅛
Quaker Oats	54⅛	53⅛
Ralston Purina	107⅞	105⅞
Raychem Corp	40	39⅞
Raytheon B	56½	55½
Reebok Intl	29½	29⅛
Reliastar Fin	43⅞	44½
Reynolds Metals	66	65⅛
Rockwell Intl	57⅛	57⅛
Rohm & Haas	111⅛	110½
Royal Dutch	57⅞	56½
Rubbermaid	29⅞	29
SBC Comms	42⅛	42½
Safeco Corp	48⅛	48⅛
St Paul's Cos	86⅛	85⅛
Sara Lee Corp	60⅛	59⅛
Schering Plough	83⅛	82⅞
Schlumberger	81⅛	81⅛
Seagram	42⅛	41⅞
Sears Roebuck	57⅞	56⅞
Shell Trans	44⅞	44½
Sherwin Wlms	34⅛	34⅞
Silicon Graphics	13	12⅞
Snap-On-Tools	43⅞	43⅛
Southern Co	26⅛	26⅛
Southtrust	42⅛	41⅛
Sprint Corp	67⅛	67
Stanley Works	50⅞	49⅞
Starwood H & R	52⅛	51½
Sun Company	42⅛	41⅞
Sun Microsys	41⅛	41
Suntrust	79⅛	77⅞
Supervalu	42½	42⅛
Synovus Fin	34⅛	33⅛
Sysco Corp	25	24⅛
TRW Inc	53⅛	53⅞
TIG Hldgs	25	25⅛
Tandy Corp	47	46½
Temple Inland	64⅛	63⅞
Tenet Healthcare	36⅞	36½
Tenneco	43	43
Texaco	61⅛	60⅞
Texas Inst	65⅛	64⅛
Texas Utilities	38⅞	38⅛
Textron	78⅞	78
Thermo Elect	39⅛	38½
Time Warner	78⅛	77⅞
Times-Mirror A	62⅛	62⅛
Timken	39⅛	39
Torchmark	44	43⅛
Toys R Us	28⅞	29⅞
Transamerica	115⅛	115½
Travelers	61	60⅛
Tribune	67⅛	66⅛
UST Inc	27⅞	27½
US Bancorp	123½	121½
UAL	82⅛	82⅞
Unicom	69½	69
US Inds	27⅞	26⅛
US West Comm	51½	50⅞
US West Media	38⅞	38⅛
USAirways Group	67⅛	66⅞
USX Marathon	36½	36⅛
Unicom	33⅞	33⅛
Unilever NV	77⅛	74
Union Camp	61½	61⅛
Union Carbide	52⅞	51⅛
Union Pacific	56	54⅞
Unisys Corp	24⅞	23½
United Tech	96⅛	95⅞
Unocal Corp	39⅛	39⅛
VF Corp	51½	50⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	50⅛	50⅛
Warner-Lambert	185⅞	184
Waste Mngmt	34⅞	34⅛
Wells Fargo	373½	365
Weyerhaeuser	56½	56½
Whirlpool	68⅛	68⅞
Whitman	19⅛	19⅞
Winn Dixie	37⅛	37⅞
Witco Corp	38⅛	38⅛
Woolworth	20⅞	22⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	93	91⅛
Xerox	113	112½
Xilinx Inc	46⅞	45⅛

NEWS

Cook engulfed by arms scandal

☐ Robin Cook's embarrassment over the arms-to-Africa scandal deepened yesterday when the British company at the centre of the Sierra Leone affair named five senior diplomats who allegedly approved the shipment of weapons.

The letter was released as Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, admitted misleading MPs about an inquiry into the role of British mercenaries.....**Pages 1, 2**

Yorkshire manhunt for SAS murderer

☐ A nationwide manhunt was launched yesterday for Dr Thomas Shanks, 47, an anaesthetist who is believed to be a former SAS soldier, who shot and killed his lover during a row outside a pub in Castleford, West Yorkshire .....**Pages 1, 4**

Conflict over mayor

Fears of perpetual conflict between Downing Street and London's new authority have been raised by senior Labour figures..... **Page 1**

Iranian bomb suspect

An Iranian physicist is suspected of being behind the recent parcel bomb attacks..... **Page 1**

Fresh woes for Gullit

First he was sacked by Chelsea, then Ruud Gullit came under attack, this time from his former wife and his girlfriend's father ..... **Page 3**

New image for hockey

Efforts to rid the sport of its 'jolly hockeysticks' image have been endorsed by the president of hockey's governing body..... **Page 5**

Hitman spared

A hitman who spared his intended victim after she pleaded for her life received mercy from the Old Bailey in the form of a two-and-a-half-year sentence..... **Page 5**

Welsh prison inquiry

The Prisons Minister has ordered a report on Parc private prison in Wales following a riot and two suicides in the six months since it opened ..... **Page 10**

Royal village tour

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited the Prince of Wales's much-derided model village at Poundbury..... **Page 11**

Jakarta students held

Protests by Indonesian students outside the National Assembly were met by 500 arrests ... **Page 13**

Guard 'was in Stasi'

A Berlin newspaper has claimed that the murdered papal guard, Alois Estermann, was a Stasi informer..... **Page 16**

Arsenic found in spill

High levels of arsenic have been found in the toxic sludge left by the spill after a dam burst in southern Spain..... **Page 19**

Lennon's sons in war of succession

☐ The rivalry between John Lennon's sons will break into open warfare this month when half-brothers Julian and Sean release albums on the same day. Julian is an established star while Sean, 12 years his junior, has yet to make an impact .....**Page 6**

MARTIN BEDDALL



Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, with his wife and daughters after being appointed a Companion of Honour yesterday

NEWS FEATURES

Native tongue: European pop fans are rejecting English and US pop in favour of music sung in their own languages ..... **Page 8**

Star wars: The battle of the cosmic disaster movies has begun as Disney's *Armageddon* takes on *Deep Impact* by Dreamworks ..... **Page 18**

Guns for hire: On her first trip to a minefield in Angola, Diana, Princess of Wales, did not realise that her British bodyguards were former SAS men, hired guns employed by a British mercenary agency..... **Pages 20-21**

OPINION

Dear Mr Cook: The earthquake that Robin Cook has spent the past week wishing away cannot any longer be ignored..... **Page 23**

They're off: The electorate would be well served by a Blair-Hague conspiracy against the Archer-Livingstone axis ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Ulster violence; Sierra Leone; memories of a marchioness; Abbey dismissal; misery of zoos; mobile cinemas; rail punctuality ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The publicity for the G8 summit eschews 1960s and 1970s Birmingham. The camera shows what might be old Boston or Amsterdam..... **Page 22**

James Pringle: The death of Eldridge Cleaver reminded me of my own encounter with the Black Panther leader in 1969, an encounter I thought I might not survive..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Frank Wootton, aviation artist; **Gene Raymond,** actor; **Sybil Connolly,** fashion designer ..... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Thomson turmoil: The Securities and Futures Authority has launched an inquiry into the way share shops handled shares in Thomson Travel Group ..... **Page 30**

Bid falls: EMI announced that takeover talks had failed to reach agreement .. **Page 30**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 31.8 to 5969.8. The pound fell to $1.6365 ..... **Page 30**

WEEKEND MONEY

Making the most of your pocket money and how the euro will affect your investments.

SPORT

Football: Everton fight relegation at Coventry City tomorrow ..... **Page 33**

Rugby union: The RFU and the leading clubs have reached a seven-year agreement ..... **Page 42**

Motor racing: Mika Hakkinen set the fastest time in practice sessions for the Spanish Grand Prix, 0.8sec ahead of David Coulthard ..... **Page 41**

Equestrianism: Stuart Black, of Canada, riding Market Venture, moved into the lead at Badminton ..... **Page 43**

SECTIONS

the times magazine

Well-shod: Ginny Dougary puts herself in Imelda Marcos's shoes ..... **Page 8**

Lion tamer: Minding the World Cup fans .. **Page 31**

Red herrings: Blair's team in 1968..... **Page 39**

Deam works: The art of Peter Bartlett..... **Page 61**

T2

Big interview: Imogen Edwards-Jones meets theatreland's young bucks..... **Page 6**

Eurodross: Eurovision trashed..... **Page 2**

Books: Paulo Coelho's Brazilian tales and other reviews ..... **Pages 14-21**

Listings: ..... **Pages 26-43**

WEEKEND

Naked truth: Christine Wallace's unauthorised biography of Germaine Greer..... **Pages 1, 7**

Last disrespects: Death by disdain..... **Page 3**

Sweet charity: Oxfam goes up-market ..... **Page 5**

Wine: Jane MacQuitty on the merits of breathing and decanting ..... **Page 7**

Vision

A full seven-day guide to radio and television

m·g@

***Interview with RL Stine, author of* Goosebumps**

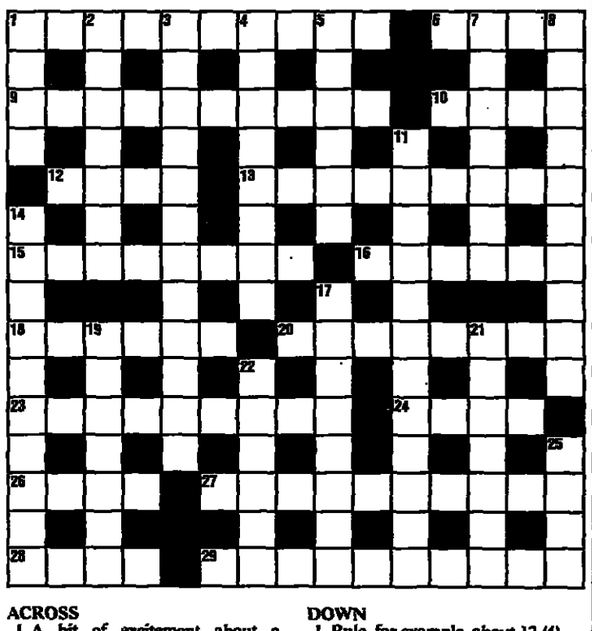
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,787

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

.....



ACROSS

1 A bit of excitement about a travelling fair and animal show (6,4).
6 On one's own, so going back into city (4).
9 Like insects, say (10).
10 Either part of pontoon bridge, for example (4).
12 Fatal direction recommended to young man (4).
13 Begin to make deletions (6,3).
15 Distance moved in travel (8).
16 Author who adds fuel to the flames? (6).
18 Take off comic finally in highly unpopular comeback (6).
20 Quiet performance in theatre of French doctors with method (4,4).
23 Eddy's stimulating sort of bath (9).
24 Freight lacking at first for old ship (4).
26 March price rise (4).
27 Spanish city full of bad fruit (10).
28 Look equal (4).
29 Badly frightened boy is held by mistake (10).

DOWN

1 Rule, for example, about 12 (4).
2 Female to certify as being extremely fertile (7).
3 Quake circles earth, as this shows (7,5).
4 Measures taken by sailor as aid to navigation (4,4).
5 Get heated and make sharp reply (6).
7 Silver, for example, main explorer found (3-4).
8 Result of poor return, perhaps? Name ruined (10).
11 He stands on a progressive platform (12).
14 Don't buy anything from double-glazing seller? (6-4).
17 Name ship after European capitalist? (8).
19 Slow rate of progress for such a charger (7).
21 Ugly woman with bad legs seeks best offer (7).
22 In spring, sweet companion goes to church (6).
25 Bundle of notes includes new spelling aid (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,781

D	U	T	C	H		S	U	M	M	I	N	G	U	P
E		I		A		A		N		A		N		U
P	A	L	M	I	S	T	R	Y		S	C	R	U	B
A		E		R		E		B		I		G		L
R	E	D	U	C	E		G	L	A	D	I	O	L	I
T		U		T		O		E		Y		C		
M	O	N	S	T	R	O	U	S		R	U	L	E	R
E		A		N		S		E		E				
N	E	R	V	E		G	R	O	U	N	D	S	E	L
T		C		N		U		M		O		A		
S	H	I	F	T	K	E	Y		E	S	P	R	I	T
T		S		I		T		S		E		I		
O	N	S	E	T		I	N	C	O	G	N	I	T	O
R		U		L		E		A		G		N		
E	A	S	T	E	N	D	E	R		Y	A	N	K	S

Solution to Puzzle No 20,786

N	O	M	A	N	S	L	A	N	D		A	C	T	S
J		O		I		Q		A		B		H		A
C	O	L	O	N		R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	T
E		E		G		C		E		N		C		
I	N	C	I	D	E	N	C	E		A	W	A	S	H
S		U		A		O		N		K			E	
H	A	L	C	Y	O	N		T	A	N	K	F	U	L
		A		S			E		R					
T	H	R	O	W	E	R		R	O	W	B	O	A	T
O			O		E		E		G		O			
R	O	M	A	N		P	R	O	G	R	A	M	M	E
N		E		D		O		P		O		C		
A	D	D	R	E	S	S	E	E		U	S	U	A	L
D		A		R		A		N		T		I		
O	N	L	Y		C	L	O	S	E	D	S	H	O	P

Last week's winners: K Hopkins, Peterborough, Cambs; B Handley, Chesham, Herts; S R Mould, Hayle, Cornwall; M T Wylde, Rochdale, Lancs; M Nichols, Rugby, Warwickshire.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY	Sun sets:	Moon rises
Sun rises: 5.19 am	8.36 pm	
Moon sets 4.51 am		6.18 pm

Full moon May 11

London 8.36 pm to 5.17 am
Bristol 8.46 pm to 5.27 am
Edinburgh 9.07 pm to 5.10 am
Manchester 8.53 pm to 5.18 am
Penzance 8.53 pm to 5.44 am

TOMORROW	Sun sets:	Moon rises
Sun rises: 5.17 am	8.38 pm	
Moon sets 5.15 am		7.21 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 8.38 pm to 5.16 am
Bristol 8.47 pm to 5.25 am
Edinburgh 9.09 pm to 5.08 am
Manchester 8.54 pm to 5.16 am
Penzance 8.54 pm to 5.42 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:03	3.8	1:13	3.8
Avonmouth	6:48	12.0	7:11	12.3
Belfast	10:42	3.2	11:12	3.2
Cardiff	6:34	11.2	6:57	11.4
Devonport	5:13	5.1	5:37	5.2
Dover	10:54	6.1	11:07	6.3
Dublin	11:30	3.8	11:45	3.7
Falmouth	4:44	4.8	5:03	5.0
Greenock	12:15	3.0	0:54	3.0
Harwich	11:39	3.8	11:53	3.7
Holyhead	10:08	5.1	10:28	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	6.07	7.9	6.16	8.1
Ilfracombe	5:37	8.3	5:58	8.4
King's Lynn	5.13	5.9	5.19	6.0
Leith	2:18	4.9	2:40	5.0
Liverpool	10:59	8.6	11:18	8.8
London Bridge	1.27	6.6	1.51	6.9
Lowestoft	9:39	2.3	9.27	2.3
Margate	12:02	4.5	0.05	4.4
Milford Haven	5.51	6.2	6.12	6.3
Newquay	4.45	6.3	5.05	6.4
Oban	5:21	3.5	5:52	3.6
Penzance	4.17	5.0	4.37	5.1
Portland	6.09	1.6	6.39	1.7
Portsmouth	11:05	4.1	11:24	4.3
Shoreham	11:01	5.5	11.19	5.8
Southampton	10:33	4.2	10:50	4.4
Swansea	5:58	8.7	6:18	8.8
Tees	3:13	5.0	3:27	5.1
Walton-On-Naze	11.35	4.0	11.48	3.9

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre 25C (77F); lowest day max: Dunchraman, Dumfries and Galloway, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Morecambe, Lancashire, 0.37in; highest sunshine: Kinloss, Moray, 14.4hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** cloud and rain will move slowly north across Scotland and Northern Ireland, dying out in most parts by afternoon. England and Wales will have a warm, humid and sunny day but cloud will build in the afternoon with localised thundery showers. Mild overnight.

☐ **London, Midlands:** plenty of sunshine but risk of thundery downpours by evening. Light S wind. Max 24C (75F).

☐ **SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E England, Channel Isles:** warm sunshine but risk of thunderstorms by evening. Light S wind. Max 23C (73F) cooler on the coast.

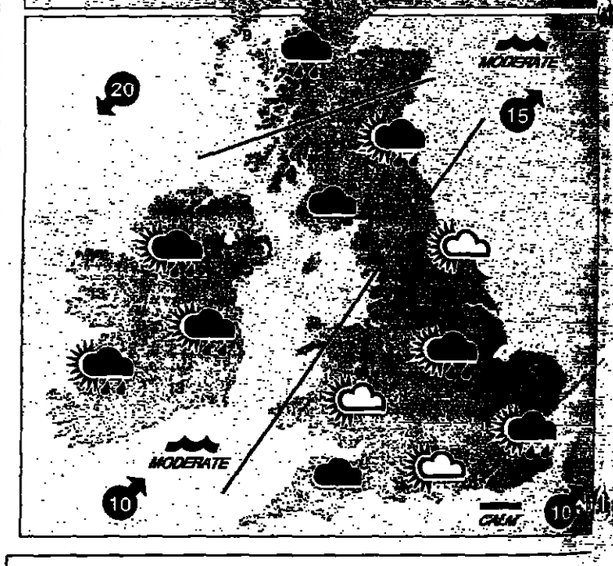
☐ **SW England, Wales:** early mist clearing then sunny spells. Cool and misty near coasts. Light southerly wind. Max 20C (68F), but cooler near coasts.

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** warm with sunny periods. Light S wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** overnight rain clearing to leave warm sunny spells. Light, variable wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain. A light and variable wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Outlook:** southern and central England and South Wales will see thundery showers tomorrow, but elsewhere will be dry with some sunshine. Monday will be wet in England and Wales and later in Northern Ireland, but Scotland will be mainly dry.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

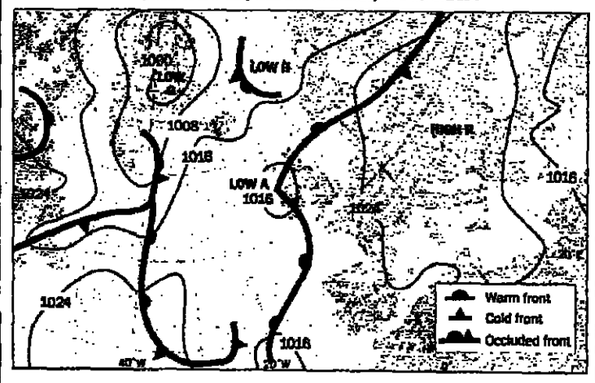
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	11.5	-	15	59	s
Anglesey	5.8	0.04	14	57	b
Aspatria	0.4	0.09	13	55	d
Aviemore	10.8	0.04	14	57	s
Belfast	1.7	0.01	13	55	c
Birmingham	8.7	-	21	70	b
Bognor R	10.1	-	18	64	s
Bournem'th	6.9	-	18	64	s
Bristol	6.8	0.01	21	70	b
Buxton	8.2	0.01	18	64	b
Cardiff	X	0.01	21	70	b
Clacton	11.9	-	15	59	s
Cleethorpes	12.6	-	19	66	s
Colwyn Bay	5.5	0.02	19	66	s
Cromer	10.9	-	21	70	s
Dunbar	3.2	-	15	59	c
Eastbourne	13.0	-	18	64	s
Edinburgh	3.9	0.02	14	57	c
Eskdalemuir	0.5	0.16	11	52	r
Exmouth	5.1	0.01	15	59	b
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	6.4	-	16	61	b
Folkestone	13.2	-	20	68	s
Glasgow	7.1	0.01	14	57	b
Guernsey	9.4	-	22	72	s
Hastings	12.0	-	22	72	s
Hayling I.	8.8	-	17	63	s
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	9.3	-	18	64	s
Hunstanton	10.4	-	23	73	s
Isle of Man	0.5	0.11	13	55	r
Isle-of-Wight	8.9	0.01	17	63	s
Jersey	7.4	-	24	75	b
Kinloss	14.4	-	16	61	s
Leeds	7.8	-	21	70	s
Lerwick	8.1	0.18	11	52	sh
Lauchars	8.2	-	14	57	c
Littlehmptn	9.7	-	16	64	s
London	10.6	0.01	25	77	s
Lowestoft	11.0	-	16	61	s
Manchester	6.2	-	19	66	b
Margate	11.2	-	23	73	s
Minehead	X				
Morecambe	5.0	0.37	16	61	s
Newcastle	0.9	0.01	15	59	sh
Newquay	4.8	-	18	64	b
Norwich	11.1	-	22	72	s
Oxford	8.1	0.01	21	70	sh
Penzance	X	-	18	61	s
Poole	5.6	0.01	18	64	b
Prestatyn	X	-	20	68	s
Ross on Wye	9.1	0.01	21	70	s
Salcombe	7.0	-	15	59	s
Saunton Snd	7.1	-	20	68	s
Scarboro'	7.5	0.01	18	64	s
Shrewsbury	7.8	0.01	19	66	b
Skegness	11.5	-	17	63	s
Southend	11.9	-	20	68	s
Southport	X	0.10	18	64	s
Southsea	9.1	-	19	66	s
Stornoway	9.0	0.12	13	55	s
Swanage	8.1	0.01	14	57	sh
Teignmouth	5.5	0.01	15	59	b
Tenby	7.8	-	15	59	s
Tiree	11.8	0.06	13	55	sh
Torquay	6.0	-	15	59	b
Tynemouth	X	-	15	59	c
Weston s Mare	5.5	-	20	68	b
Weymouth	X				

ABROAD

Ajaccio	18	64	s	Cologne	15	59	c	Madrid	23	73	s
Alicante	25	77	f	Corfu	22	72	s	Majorca	20	68	s
Alex'dria	24	75	f	C'phagn	13	55	f	Malaga	20	68	s
Algiers	23	73	s	Dublin	11	52	r	Malta	17	63	f
Amst'dm	15	59	c	Dubrovnik	18	64	s	Melb'rne	12	54	f
Athens	22	72	s	Faro	24	75	s	Mexico C	29	84	s
B Aires	21	70	f	Florence	23	73	f	Miami	31	88	s
Bahrain	34	93	s	Frankfurt	16	61	c	Milan	23	73	f
Bangkok	36	97	s	Funchal	18	64	c	Montreal	22	72	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	18	64	s	Moscow	15	59	c
Barcelona	19	66	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	18	64	s
Beijing	25	77	s	Helsinki	8	46	c	N Delhi	29	84	s
Beirut	22	72	f	Hong K	30	86	s	N York	18	61	f
Belgrade	20	68	f	Innsbruck	21	70	s	Nairobi	19	66	f
Berlin	16	61	c	Istanbul	20	68	s	Naples	23	73	c
Bermuda	22	72	c	Jeddah	37	99	s	Nice	18	64	s
Biarritz	26	79	s	Jo'burg	25	79	s	Oslo	13	55	f
Bordx	23	72	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	15	59	c
Brussels	14	57	c	L Palmas	20	68	c	Perth	27	81	c
Budapst	21	70	f	La Toust	14	57	f	Prague	16	61	c
Cairo	31	88	f	Lisbon	23	73	s	Reykjavik	5	41	s
Cape Tn	17	63	c	Locarno	20	68	f	Rhodes	23	73	s
Ch'church	11	52	-	Luxembg	13	55	c	Rio de J	20	68	f
Chicago	14	57	r	Luxor	44	111	s	Riyadh	37	99	s
Rome	19	66	s
S Fr'isco	13	55	f
S Paulo	X		
Salzburg	19	66	s
Santiago	19	66	f
Seoul	20	68	r
Sing'por	31	88	t
Sr'kholm	12	54	r
Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Sydney	21	70	s
Tangier	24	75	s
Tel Aviv	25	77	f
Tenerife	20	68	f
Tokyo	26	79	s
Toronto	22	72	s
Tunis	20	68	f
Valencia	20	68	s
Vanc'ver	18	64	s
Venice	19	66	f
Vienna	20	68	f
Warsaw	18	64	f
Wash'ton	23	73	c
Wel'ngton	13	55	s
Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low A will move NE and deepen; low H will move N and fill; low G will move slowly E with little change; high R will be slow-moving

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EXPOSED



Sick games and sharp practices in funeral parlours

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SHOPPING



Riches to rags: Iris Palmer models Oxfam

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TRAVEL



Yo-ho-ho and a Kalashnikov — the new pirates

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NEXT WEEK



Anne Robinson's diary returns to *The Times*

SATURDAY MAY 9 1998

THE TIMES

WEEKEND



In an unauthorised biography, **Christine Wallace** reveals how Germaine Greer became scarred for life by the sexual liberation she espoused

The naked truth behind the fanatical feminist



TIM O'SULLIVAN/FSP

Greer reveals all and, above left, the cover for *The Female Eunuch*, which became a bestseller and made her synonymous with women's liberation

Until she wrote *The Female Eunuch* there is little evidence that Germaine Greer had ever much considered the position of women other than through the position of one woman: herself. For Greer, sexual plenty and spontaneity was a catch-all, unisex solution to everyone's problems. She was not a part of the grassroots feminism that gathered momentum in America. Australia and Britain as the 1960s rolled on. Rather she was part of the counterculture whose "free love" tenet coincided with her libertarian view of spontaneous sex as the universal balm.

Writing in *Oz* in early 1970, Greer attacked feminist activists across the spectrum — liberal feminists for their incorporation into the system, militant feminists for compulsive and repressive sexual practices and, extraordinarily, feminist self-defence practitioners for low self-esteem. Never mind which way your feminism leant. If you were fat or belligerent, Greer argued, your lack of personal liberation showed. Sexual freedom — and, implicitly, sexual desirability — were her benchmark for personal liberation: "A woman who cannot organise her sex life in her own best interests is hardly likely to transform society." A woman's best interests mean junking monogamy and "f****** for sex instead of ego and prestige".

The Female Eunuch was bawdy, witty, provocative and dotted with intimate personal testimony and delectable historical titbits. Women wanted to read *The Female Eunuch*, relishing its daring and derring-do. "I did not realise that the tissues of my vagina were quite normal until I saw a meticulously engraved dissection in an 18th-century anatomy

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SHOPPING ..... 4,5 | FOOD & DRINK .... 6,7 | COUNTRY LIFE ..... 8 | PROPERTY ..... 10-12 | GARDENING ..... 15,16 | HOME LIFE ..... 17 | TRAVEL ..... 23-31 | GAMES 35,36



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'A woman who cannot organise her sex life to her best advantage is hardly likely to transform society'





From her second year at university, Greer was frank about her sexuality at a time when women generally avoided the subject. Her marriage to Paul du Feu, right, in 1968 was soon abandoned

Continued from page 1

textbook," Greer wrote, for example, at the beginning of an historical assemblage of snippets on *women's genitalia* in which she highlighted the fact that women had not always been so reluctant to discuss their sexuality.

She made the clarion call to change in such emotionally appealing, idealistic terms that it was almost irresistible. "Sex must be rescued from the traffic between powerful and powerless, masterful and mastered, sexual and neutral," she wrote, "to become a form of communication between potent, gentle, tender people, which cannot be accomplished by a denial of heterosexual contact." She made the social delinquency she sought to provoke so delectably inviting that few who read the book could fail to feel its attraction, in theory at least. "Liberty is terrifying but it is also exhilarating." The book closed with the confrontational question: "What will you do?"

The Female Eunuch triggered a shock of recognition in hundreds of thousands of Western women. It was feminism's smash-hit best-seller, generating scores of photographs, television and radio interviews and thousands of column-inches of newspaper and magazine copy, and making Greer synonymous with women's liberation across the Western world.

It also prompted an untold number of women to rethink their self-perceptions, their relations with men, the entire basis of their existence. "It changed my life" is the most common response from women who read it in the early 1970s.

Greer's earliest memory of her father was that he was not there. Reg joined the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) in January 1942, just before his daughter's third birthday. Peggy Greer pursued the life of a young mother, consisting mainly of baby, beach and the bountiful attention of visiting American soldiers.

Reg was invalided out of the force less than two years after he joined. The Greers struggled to re-establish married life as Reg battled with the debilitating effects of war-induced neurosis and Peggy came to terms with the damaged man who had returned in place of her pre-war husband.

Reg's return intensified Greer's paternal longing. "He was in a bad state when he got home from the war," Peggy says. "He ignored her." Greer was resentful. Daddy never hugged her. When she put her skinny arms around him he would grimace, shudder and push her away — ostensibly as a joke, but it was one he played each time she sought fatherly affection.

Reg was also absorbing her mother's energy, on which she had previously had first claim. In Peggy's view, "She thought of me as her personal property. She was rather a clinging child, to both of us. She liked to know what was going on, including between us."

Greer feared her mother and has said that she suffered intensely because of Peggy's personality: "I'm supposed to be grown up and have forgotten about it but it's very difficult to forget being terrorised when you were only two feet high. My mother physically abused me as a child. She used a stick and she used to hurt me pretty badly."

Greer loved her father for not hitting her but his failure to protect her from Peggy lost him her respect. He sat in the next room, "where the thud of blows was clearly audible", without intervening. To his daughter he was revealed as weak, craven, feeble.

Tensions at home were exacerbated by the transition to university life, which held particular difficulties for women in the 1950s. "Women weren't people," one male former student recalls. "They were minor social add-ons." Greer was miserable for the first few weeks, fretting about her height and whether she was dressed the right way. But this tall, smart, sharp fresher quickly became the object of male desire on campus.

Greer alternately used and neglected her friends and admirers, pursuing a notion of herself as wild, dangerous and mad — an idea she ascribed to reading rubbishy books during adolescence. Her eccentricity became more marked during her second year as she experimented broadly with life and made her way in Melbourne's bohemian subculture.

Late in the academic year she had her first abortion. It cost the then mighty sum of £35. Soon afterwards she met the first man with whom she could enjoy reciprocal love. She had a job waitressing in a restaurant where a jazz band played. The drummer was a young Greek her own age. Greer's low morale lifted. He loved her and she loved him back: "That was my first real love affair."

At 19, Greer was raped. Twenty-five years later, and more than a decade after she published *The Female Eunuch*, she initially talked tough when discussing it. "I had lots of adventures then," she said of life after leaving home. "I got raped and beaten up. I had affairs ..." The brittle bravado fell away as she recounted details of the attack — allegedly by a former student of the elite Xavier College and "just the sort of boy my mother would have liked me to marry".

From her second year at university, Greer was frank about her sexuality at a time when women generally avoided the subject. "She was more open than even the men," one former lover recalls. "She was a super-bragger. A hand on the breast was a social disgrace at the time. yet Germaine would come into the union caff and announce who she'd laid the night before."

The rape, just before the beginning of her third year at university, almost certainly contributed to a hardening in Greer's relationships with men. By the end of her degree a certain disdain was obvious. "She was contemptuous of how uninvolved men were," recalls one student lover. "She signalled it by her contemptuous treatment of men. She used them, then would give them the flick in public ... We blokes were all rejected. There was a really ugly, cold period when she rejected us all."



Greer as a schoolgirl: her childhood was unhappy

Having dismissed men as less than whole people, for a time she renewed her exploration of women, forming at least two intense attachments, although this did not affect her heterosexual orientation.

Greer accepted an assistant lectureship in English at the University of Warwick, and moved to Leamington Spa. "I didn't belong anywhere," she recalled later. "I was miserable." Life was only made bearable by her intense involvement in teaching and by regular forays to London.

She was linked with numerous men on three continents during the 1970s (including a rapidly abandoned marriage to Paul du Feu in 1968), but as the decade progressed none of them provided what she wanted most of all — a child. She was almost 34 when her desire for a child intensified sharply. Meanwhile there were signs that the mode of living combined with her highly strung nature had taken a toll on her health. After several years of high living, Greer was carrying some weight and showing the effects of having tippled too often. In early 1976 she went teetotal and says: "I think I was on the verge of alcoholism. I like myself better now I don't drink."

In 1977, at the age of 38, with her chances of conceiving ebbing away, Greer paid for surgery at a Harley Street clinic in a bid to enhance her fertility. "My uterus had been badly knocked about," she told the writer Barbara Grizzuti Harrison. "And they reconstructed it so it looked beautiful. One lovely tube and all the fibroids taken out. I had this middle-aged uterus ready to go. But it didn't go. I gave it a good shot. I spent £4,500 on it. That's it."

Greer was now the poacher-turned-gamekeeper on the philosophy of sexual libertarianism. If her own infertility drove the reversal, it was not the only factor. Her love affair with the extended family systems of traditional societies — the antithesis of the nuclear family she had grown up in — was the other motive force.

Greer began disengaging from sex in her middle forties. She related the shift to work fatigue and the machinations of her unsuccessful attempts to conceive. "I have a bed in there as big as a ball park but nothing ever happens except I sleep in the swastika 2 position, I think it's called," she told one journalist. Referring to the five-hour operation she had endured in 1977 to repair her reproductive system, she added: "I think that's one of the reasons I've gone off sex: it all got to be too much of a thing."

As she approached 50, Greer hastened her philosophical retreat from sex, effectively denouncing it and belittling the movement for social change with which she had been identified in the 1960s and 1970s. "I'm beginning to think sex is really disgusting and we should have nothing to do with it," she said in 1986. "The 1960s' social and sexual revolutions were, basically, a w***," she said the following year. "I was always very cynical about what was happening. We were just rich kids playing and were never really going to change anything — and not for women either." Then, on the threshold of 50, she declared "maybe I've never been sexually awakened".

Her earlier enthusiasm for sex was transmitted into a heightened delectation of food, which she declared was infinitely variable: "Sex is really not. It is banal and unrewarding." Where this left the thousands of women who had been influenced by her views, Greer was not prepared to consider. She had always ducked responsibility for the consequences of her polemics, arguing that "it is axiomatic that one can only liberate oneself", and that her work was designed to provoke thought, not to prescribe action.

She made a patch of England hers: Mill Farm, a small acreage at Stump Cross near Saffron Walden in Essex, which she bought in 1985. She settled into rural domesticity and began to enjoy what has probably been the most enduring happiness of her life.

But Greer had created a serious problem for herself — the problem of not being taken seriously. She had preached one thing with absolute certainty in her sexual prime. Now she preached the opposite without any attempt to reconcile the two or rationalise her shift. She wanted the luxury of believing herself right, both then and now, and expected everyone else to believe it, too.

Greer was nevertheless a feminist, and an influential one. She was not of the women's movement, but this in itself is no sin. The problem was rather her deep, obvious ambivalence about women — that when she was being malign, mean-spirited, contemptuous and belittling about someone, it was as often as not a woman. She even framed her feminism in terms of an attack on women. Her feminist clarion call is not titled *The Bastard Male* but *The Female Eunuch*.

Greer wrenched from her very guts a book that shook women into a new way of seeing their situation. Damaged by her childhood, despairing of her childlessness, partnership-shy, relentlessly holding up a public mirror to the psychic wounds she dare not contemplate in private, unrepentant — she was the maverick of mavericks, flawed, flailing, but always fighting.

This is the key to why she has been an inspiration to so many other women. She has never surrendered her sovereignty. Germaine Greer never was tamed.

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Extracted from Germaine Greer: Untamed Shrew, *to be published by Richard Cohen Books in June. £18.99.*

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Those who died with no known grave ...

A radio talk about a wartime tragedy has resulted in a commemoration for the Merchant Navy, says **Anthony Smith**

The two survivors with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor

The *Anglo-Saxon* in Vancouver, February 1939, being loaded with a cargo of timber

The German commander learnt from his masthead lookouts that he had a British freighter on a southerly course about ten miles astern of him. He decided to keep out of sight until nightfall, then come about and hope for an encounter before moonrise. The date was August 21, 1940 in the mid-Atlantic, and the German surface raider already had seven kills. An eighth would suit its captain very well, provided he silenced "the enemy" before it could radio a distress call. Submarines could submerge after an attack but a raider — disguised as an innocent merchantman — would be easy prey for any warship if its cover was blown.

The *Anglo-Saxon*, carrying coal from Britain to Argentina, had parted from its east-west convoy several days earlier. At 26 degrees north on that summer day the war seemed far away. Most submarines haunted the shipping lanes of the north Atlantic, and life down by the tropics was relatively relaxed.

Suddenly, shortly after the 8pm change of watch, the war caught up with the *Anglo-Saxon*. She came under shell and machinegun attack. Men were dying everywhere: the captain was hit as he dumped the papers overboard. His ship did have a solitary gun, but its ammunition exploded before it could fire a single round. All the lifeboats were shot to pieces. In the chaos, seven men managed to scramble into the portside jolly boat. As tracer shells, explosions and flames lit the sky, they escaped into the darkness.

The jolly boat — 18ft long, hardly larger than an estate car — was normally used for excursions from ship to shore. It held half a breaker of water, three tins of mutton, a "tank" of biscuits and 11 tins of condensed milk. Three men were wounded, the second radio operator worst with a crushed foot. The first-aid kit contained bandages, some lint and iodine. The wounds were bathed with sea water, and everyone was allotted half a dipper of water twice a day.

Nineteen days later, only two men remained in that boat. The radio operator had died from gangrene. A Royal Marine, also wounded, had fallen overboard, perhaps deliberately. The first mate and the third engineer, tormented by thirst, hunger and despair, elected to follow him. The two men went arm in arm, with neither lifting his head. The assistant cook was last to go, dementedly saying he was "popping down the street". Roy Widdicombe and Robert Tapscott, ordinary seamen aged 21 and 19, were alone.

Seven weeks and two days after the cook had "vanished like a stone", they staggered up the beach of Eleuthera in the Bahamas. They were half their normal weight and suffering from pellagra, but had survived on seaweed, the few molluscs and crustaceans attached to it, and an occasional downpour of rain. The Duke of Windsor, governing the Bahamas, ordered both men (and their boat) to be brought to Nassau. For a time their lives hung in the balance, but youth and medical care (better than the whisky and corned beef proffered by their finders on Eleuthera) saved them.

Widdicombe was in better shape than Tapscott and, 70 days after their ordeal, he sailed via New York for Britain. The cargo ship returning him across the Atlantic was torpedoed off the Faeroe Isles with the loss of all on board. His young widow was told not to bother to travel to Liverpool to meet him.

I told this tale on Radio 4 in August 1990, half a century after the *Anglo-Saxon*'s sinking. The epic had moved me tremendously when reading it (in *Two Survived* by Guy Pearce Jones) as a youngster during the war, particularly those decisions to go overboard and the irony of Widdicombe's further sinking.

The second phase of this saga began when a Desmond Denny wrote asking for a copy of the script. I sent him one, together with a query: "Are you related to Barry Denny, the first mate initially in charge of the jolly boat?"

"Yes, he was my brother," came the reply. I had not imagined my talk might unearth anyone for whom that single tragedy was the most devastating fact about the war. We arranged to meet at the forthcoming Remembrance Day celebrations, but this led to a further astonishment. The Merchant Marine was not one of the armed services, and therefore does not take part (save for a single individual) in the events around the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Instead, the Merchant Navy holds its own low-key ceremony by Tower Hill (in front of Trinity House). The Merchant Navy for lost a higher proportion of its men than any of the armed services, and yet is sidelined in its own remembrance.

At Trinity Square Gardens the various dignitaries, some in Merchant Navy uniform, looked as if they knew precisely what it meant to steam in convoy with a flammable explosive cargo through U-boat waiters at five knots, the speed of the slowest ship. They laid their wreaths, and we sang *For those in peril on the sea* and meant every word.

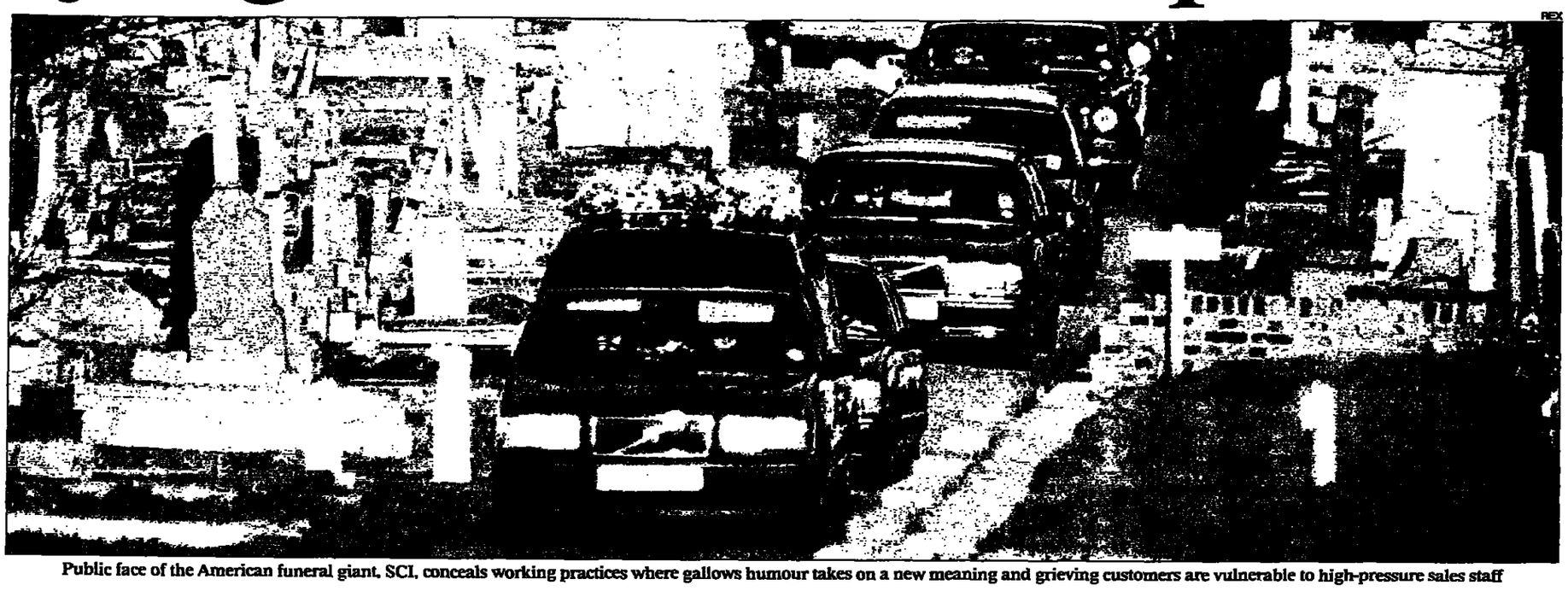
Afterwards we all, as were, stood by our ships. The name of every seaman lost in both world wars is listed in bronze under the name of the ship in which he was serving.

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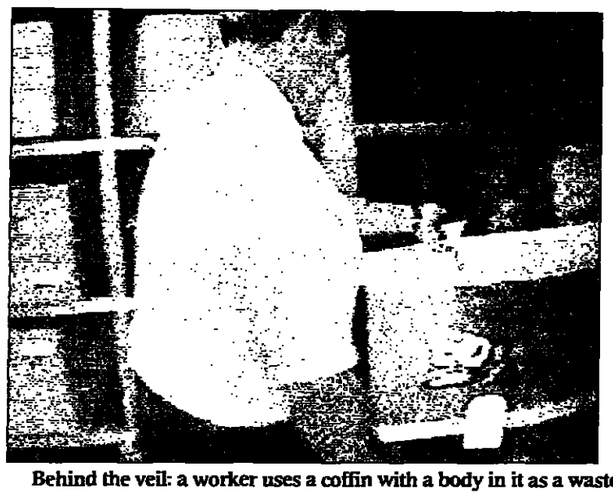
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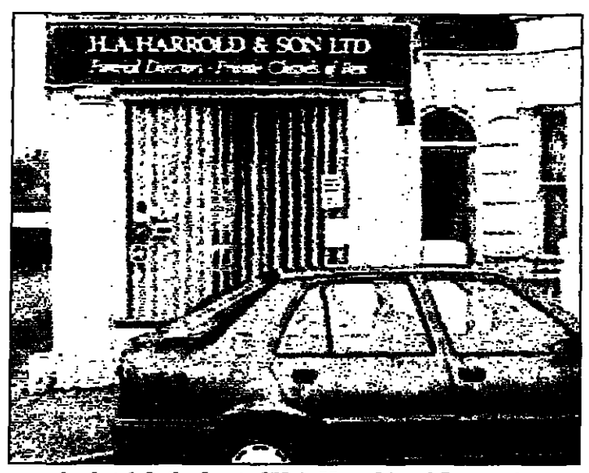
Paying their last disrespects

Funeral parlours are showing disdain for the dead and using hard-sell tactics, says Joe Warwick



Public face of the American funeral giant, SCI, conceals working practices where gallows humour takes on a new meaning and grieving customers are vulnerable to high-pressure sales staff







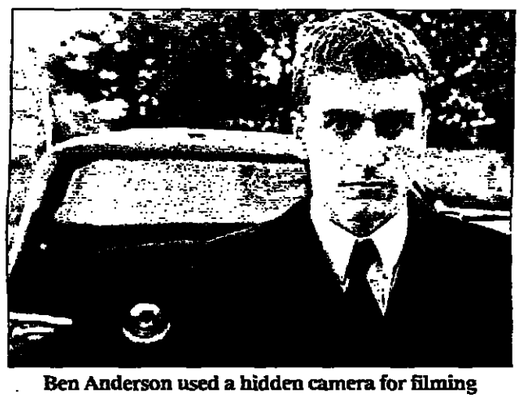
Behind the veil: a worker uses a coffin with a body in it as a wastepaper basket, left; the front of H.A. Harrold and Son, centre; a member of staff uses a dead woman's arm as a mock beer pump, right

The sign in the back room of the funeral parlour is reassuring in its simplicity: "Remember this room becomes sacred when a family *entrusts* us with one of their most treasured possessions. Keep faith with them by conducting *yourself as though* the family were present. The body's dear to them — please treat the deceased with reverence."

At H.A. Harrold & Son, funeral directors in Salisbury, however, the sign has not always been treated with much respect. In a dimly-lit room full of coffins and bodies being prepared for cremation or burial, one worker says the sign might as well be hung upside down for all the notice that anybody takes of it.

A Channel 4 documentary next week uncovers a shocking catalogue of abuse, malpractice and greed in the funeral business where gallows humour takes on a new meaning and marketing men in suits run the death business.

Using an undercover reporter, the programme, *Last Rights*, shows how funeral workers use an open coffin with a body in it as a wastepaper basket, throwing their rubbish into it. In another scene, they lark about with the body of a dead woman, moving her arm up and down as a mock beer pump and later making a grab at the reporter's crotch with her lifeless hand. "Would you like to wake up in bed with that next to you?" says one of the workers.



Ben Anderson used a hidden camera for filming

Yanking at the baggy waistband on the suit of a dead man, one of the men asks rhetorically: "So they didn't measure him for this?" In one incident, the bereaved family are called "bastards" while the deceased is referred to as "the stinking sod". At a different moment, a dead woman's head is bashed accidentally against a piece of equipment. "Don't worry," quips the man who did it, "she didn't feel a thing."

Using a concealed camera, Ben Anderson worked undercover as a trainee funeral director at H.A. Harrold & Son, which is part of the Texas-based Service Corporation International (SCI) — the largest funeral director in the world, worth about £8 billion. In the programme, which resulted in the suspension of four members of staff, Anderson also filmed selling techniques associated with the double-glazing business.

The code of practice of the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) — of which SCI is a member — says all funeral parlours should offer families a "basic funeral" costing around £800. But at this funeral parlour, you had to read the small print to understand that the basic service was available at all. In sales training, Anderson was told why: the basic funeral should be offered only as a last resort. "The next funeral up from the basic doesn't give you much more than an extra car but it's another £400 on the bill," says Anderson. Cash is demanded up front.

SCI divides its customers into four types. "At the bottom," says Anderson, "are the despised 'resisters' — those on a tight budget who don't want to spend much." The sales instructor describes them as having a "bury-me-in-a-bag" mentality.

The sales team is dissuaded from encouraging clients to use the most popular coffin because it is the cheapest. "So whatever you do, don't tell the customer what's the most popular," Anderson was told. The company marks its funeral arrangers according to the value of their coffin sales: "The ones marked pink were selling coffins above the company average of £500. Too many basics, and you were marked yellow." Four months after Anderson started working as a trainee funeral director, the cheapest coffin went up from £195 to £285.

The company also charges for embalming. Anderson says: "Embalming means sticking a 1ft-long metal spike into every organ of the body and replacing the bodily fluids with formaldehyde." The Office of Fair Trading warned against unnecessary embalming in its latest report on the funeral industry, and the NAFD code says the family should give its permission first. "But SCI does it as a matter of course — and charges for it."

SCI was involved in the funerals of Elvis Presley, Jackie Onassis and several US presidents. In Britain it conducts one funeral in eight. It was recently granted access to the mailing list of Age Concern Financial Services, the financial arm of the charity (Age Concern also sells funeral packages, most of which are arranged through SCI). The company used the list to sell pre-paid funeral packages of which it is the market leader in UK sales. However, in some cases, because the mailing list was out of date, the mailshots arrived at the addresses of those who had already died or who were very ill.

An independent survey commissioned by the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors claimed that SCI, despite its size — which should bring lower prices — is charging 35 per cent more than its rivals. The funeral industry is unregulated in Britain.

In response to the claims made in the programme, SCI said: "The company does not tolerate the use of coffins as rubbish bins or disrespect towards the deceased. SCI has suspended four members of staff and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

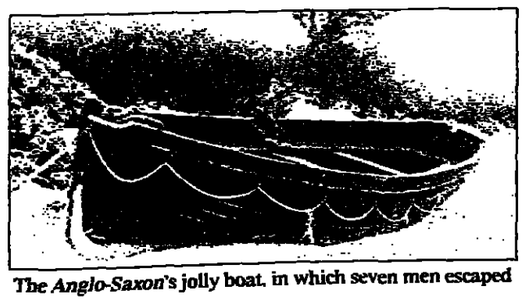
"Our training is designed to give the customer the widest choice. We do refer to the basic funeral on our main price list, and we ask for payment in advance for sound commercial reasons. On embalming, SCI has recently redrafted its policy to ensure that permission must always be sought." As Weekend went to press, SCI resigned as a member of the NAFD.

● Undercover Britain — Last Rights *will be shown on Channel 4 at 9.30pm on Tuesday*

RITES OF PASSAGE

- 70 per cent of Britons choose cremation. It was banned by the Roman Catholic church until 1963 and is forbidden to orthodox Jews and Muslims.
- To cremate a body takes about an hour with temperatures exceeding 1,000C.
- Air pollution regulations mean that plastics, rubber flowers and jewellery cannot be burnt. Pacemakers must also be removed because they can explode.
- All that is left are the coffin nails and the calcified remains of the skull, hips, pelvis and spine which are pulverised.
- Adult remains weigh 7lb.
- It is legal to be buried in your own back yard but you must mark the body on the property's deeds. It will save you the price of a burial plot but estate agents warn that it can knock about 10 per cent off the value of your home.

. . . save that of the sea



The *Anglo-Saxon*'s jolly boat, in which seven men escaped

the events around the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Instead, the Merchant Navy holds its own low-key ceremony by Tower Hill (in front of Trinity House). The Merchant Marine lost a higher proportion of its men than any of the armed services, and yet is sidelined to its own remembrances.

At Trinity Square Gardens the various dignitaries, some in Merchant Navy uniform, looked as if they knew precisely what it meant to steam in convoy with a flammable or explosive cargo through U-boat waters at five knots, the speed of the slowest ship. They laid their wreaths, and we sang *For those in peril on the sea* and meant every word.

Afterwards we all, as it were, stood by our ships. The name of every seaman lost in both world wars is listed in bronze under the name of the ship in which he was serving. By the *Anglo-Saxon*'s plaque I met Ted Milburn, son of its chief engineer (aged nine when his father died). He and Denny said: "Oughtn't we to get that jolly boat back from the Bahamas, and put it on exhibition to remind everyone of the role played by the Merchant Marine?"

A few months later Ted called: "I've found out from the Bahamas that it went to the Mystic Seaport Museum, which is in Connecticut." Eight years of sleuthing — and badgering — were to follow. We learnt that Sir Harry Oakes Bt and his wife had bought the boat at a raffle in 1940 and passed it to Mystic. Two years ago Sir Harry's grandson, Sir Christopher Oakes, requested that the boat be passed on to Britain. P&O Containers offered free passage and the Imperial War Museum welcomed this evocative donation. The boat is to be formally inaugurated on Tuesday as the centrepiece of a display, *Survival at Sea*, about the Merchant Navy during the war, by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and a former Merchant Mariner.

It will be attended by members of 11 families for whom that wartime sinking was the most shattering event of the Second World War, with loved ones so abruptly removed from their lives. Most prominent will be Norma Tapscott, widow of Robert, the boat's sole survivor, who died in 1963 as a result of his wartime experience.

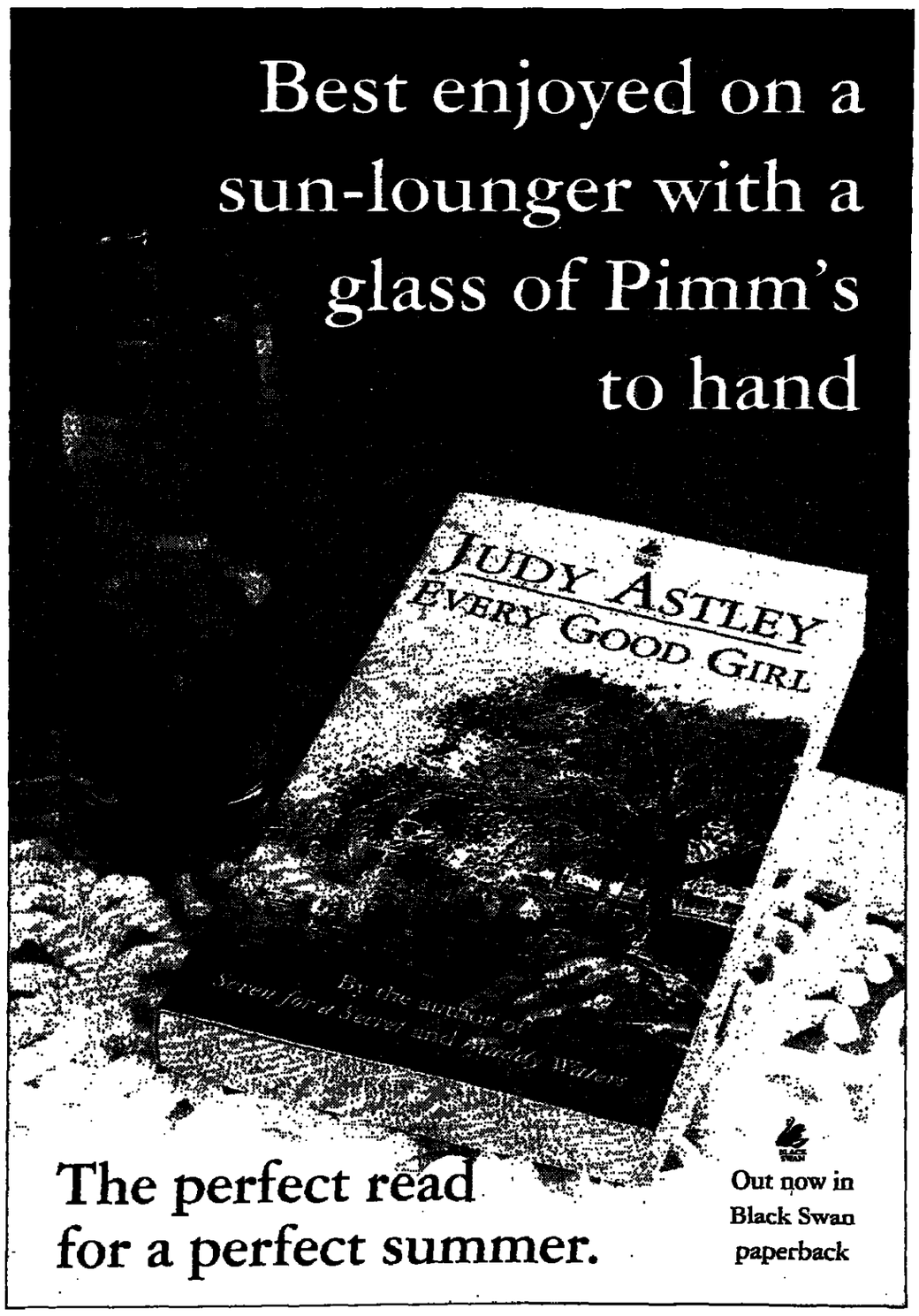
On the boat are 24 notches cut in one gunwale. These were made, day by day, by the castaways until there no longed seemed any point. But there is a profound point in looking at that boat and in remembering the 24,000 who died as Merchant Mariners, most with no known grave save that of the sea.

● Two Survived *by Guy Pearce Jones was published by Hamish Hamilton in 1941. Survived! by Anthony Smith is available from 10 Aldbourne Road, London W12 OLN at £8.99. Survival at Sea — stories of the Merchant Navy in the Second World War is at the Imperial War Museum (0171-416 5000) from May 12.*

NEXT WEEK



Dip into **Anne Robinson's** diary in Weekend

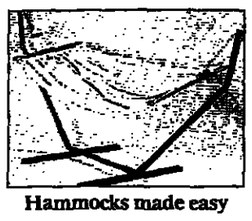


GADGETS

LAZY DAYS and Sundays should be spent dozing in the garden, rocking gently in a canvas hammock. They might be, if erecting the thing were not such a palaver. At least one end of a hammock needs to be tethered to a tree, so usually it is set up in quite the wrong place anyway.

To chase the sun around your garden, or opt for your favourite view, you need a Deluxe Frame Hammock Stand. Made from robust green steel, this comes in three sections which slot together to form a sturdy base.

Once you are in a hammock, you might run out of things to do. For example, it is not ideal for reading the Saturday papers but you could relax with an ice-cream.



Hammocks made easy

And once in your hammock, the ideal thing would be to lie and eat an ice-cream slowly. They don't come much slower than the old-fashioned wafer affairs. With the clear plastic Ice Cream Wafer Maker, you insert a wafer biscuit and then mould your own ice-cream block with a spatula, which is provided.

When it is ready, pushing a lever cleanly releases the ice-cream ready to eat.

Less of a palaver is a cornet, of course, and for perfect scoops time after time you need the Penguin Ice Cream Scoop from Zoo Tools. Disguised as a sweet-looking penguin, which is self-standing, the scoop is made from a tough but lightweight metal which, appropriately enough, is non-stick. It is also dishwasher safe.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Deluxe Frame Hammock Stand, £89.95 from Neptune Classics (01249 656467)
● Ice Cream Wafer Maker, £3.95; Penguin Ice Cream Scoop, £6.95, both plus p&p, from Lakeland Limited (015394 88100)

Yes, I'm addicted – to shops



CHRIS HARRIS

Lorna Luft in Butler & Wilson where she confessed to an addiction: she shops till she drops, despite warnings from her business manager

Lorna Luft gets her highs buying costume jewellery in Fulham, writes **Michael Cable**

my favourite shop

The most surprising thing about singer and actress Lorna Luft — daughter of Judy Garland and half-sister of Liza Minnelli — is that she appears so normal.

Her vivid account of what it was like to grow up in a seriously dysfunctional Hollywood family, dominated by her mother's tragic, drug-crazed slide into self-destruction, is likely to leave readers of her newly published autobiography, *Me And My Shadows*, wondering how she managed to survive unscathed.

And yet the bubbly 45-year-old who breezes into jewellers Butler & Wilson on Fulham Road, London, in a salmon-pink suit, the skirt short enough to show off a good pair of legs, is a picture of well-adjusted health and happiness.

It was touch and go for a while, she admits. One of the themes in her book is that addiction of any kind is a "disease" which can run in families. And there were times when it looked as though she and her half-sister Liza were in danger of following their mother down the same self-destructive path.

In the 1970s, after her own career took off with her lead role in the hit musical *Promises, Promises*, she developed a cocaine habit, living only for her nightly visits to the notorious basement room in New York's trendy Studio 54 where she would get wired on booze and cocaine. "Anxious friends used to say: 'Don't you think what you're doing is maybe repeating a pattern?' and I would reply: 'No, no, no. My mother had a real problem. I'm OK because I only do it at night.' The disease makes you that stupid."

She was eventually shocked into pulling herself together after a cocaine binge that left her feeling violently ill for four days. She has been clean ever since, insisting, with a chuckle, that her only addiction now is shopping. "Honey, I can shop till I drop," she says, rolling her eyes. "My business manager has to issue regular warnings."

A visit to Butler & Wilson is always included in her schedule when she comes to visit London from Los Angeles. As well as stocking the distinctive jewellery designs for which partners Nicky Butler and Simon Wilson have become best known, their original Fulham Road shop is also a treasure trove of antique dresses and lingerie, evening bags, wallets, purses and other accessories dating from the 1920s to the 1950s.

"I've been coming here for ages," says Ms Luft. "Their jewellery is unique, it's fun, it's beautifully made and it's not expensive. It's perfect for special occasions and great for presents. I've got so much of their stuff I could open my own branch."

To prove the point, she produces a copy of her book — already a best-seller in America — and starts leafing through the illustrations, showing Mr Wilson several photographs in which she happens to be wearing Butler & Wilson.

Among these is a photograph from her marriage last year to second husband Colin Freeman, the British arranger and musical director who seems to have helped her to cast off her unhappy memories..

The first step in that process came 14 years ago after she had persuaded her half-sister to check into the Betty Ford Centre at the height of Liza's drug problems, only to get a call from the clinic, strongly recommending that she herself should attend its family programme for the relatives of addicts.

It was only then, she says, that she was really able to start coming to terms with her mother's death and to get on with her own life. Judy Garland was only 4ft 11in but the drugs turned her into a monster. Some of the incidents Ms Luft recalls in her book are nightmarish — especially those relating to the time when, in her early teens, she was left alone to look after a mother whose behaviour could be violently unpredictable.

Yet she says: "This is a mother-and-daughter story. My mother was a loving, kind, brilliantly talented, generous, thoughtful, strong person. I loved her and she loved me. But she had a problem, a disease which none of us could deal with."

● Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road SW3 (0171-352 3045). Open: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Wed 10am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm.

SHOP WATCH

■ **The Hive Honey Shop**, in Clapham, is where beekeeper *James Hamill* sells his honey, plus honey cosmetics and beeswax candles. See the bees in the shop's glass hive at 53 Webbs Road, London SW11 (0171-924 6233).

■ **Metro**, newly opened in St Albans, has accessories from Authentics and Wireworks, plus exclusives, such as the resin and steel Ginko chair, £69, at 51 The Maltings, St Albans, Hertfordshire (01727 810992).

■ **Contemporary Applied Arts'** new Fifty Pieces of Gold exhibition is a chance to buy a one-off piece by top jewellery designers. Look for Breon O'Casey's rough sculptural work. Prices from £500, ends June 20 (0171-436 2344).

■ **Cath Kidston's** retro rose-strewn accessories, exclusive to Debenhams, are being launched this week. Call 0171-408 4444 for nearest branch.

■ UPDATE: **Indian Ocean Trading Company**, makers of teak garden furniture, are now in North London, at 25-27 Market Place, NW11 (0181-458 5252).

JUDITH WILSON

For enquiries or a free brochure call 0800 16 35 19

JONES BOOTMAKER

LEFT: Scrubbing floors need not mean going down on your knees. The Sahara, from Vax, sucks up dirt and polishes hard surfaces at the same time. At £199, it costs more than a bucket and sponge, but it will save your back (call 0500 112113 for stockists)

LEFT: AEG's latest Croma vacuum cleaner with 1400-watt motor will clean not only floors, but furniture too, with its attached upholstery brush, £149.99. If you don't like the bright colours of other models, this sleek chrome finish will appeal. (Call 08706 055055 for stockists)

A hot, soapy water container with a difference. Emma Bernhardt (0181-960 2929) has heart-shaped plastic buckets for £15

ABOVE: The Dolphin cushion kneeler from The Home Place (0181-200 5588), £9.49, protects the knees with its skid resistant foam padding

LEFT: When dipped in water these pop-up sponges from The Source (0171-937 2626) instantly expand, ready for use. A set of four costs £2.25

LEFT: A kitsch but functional spring cleaning tool from Liberty (0171-734 1234). The Flower broom, £34.95, is decorated with plastic blooms

BELOW: A fashionable way to carry your cleaning tools around the house is in the Astro tote, £7.95, from The Holding Company (0171-352 1600). Wooden dish mop, 99p, dish brush, £1.50, and bamboo scrubber, £1.25, all from The Source (as before)

Swept off your feet?

CLEANING TOOLS

It is hard to relax in a grubby home and when the sun is out but can't get through the filthy windows, it is time to prime the elbows, summon some grease and prepare to get low down and dirty.

Joe Healy, owner of All Care Cleaning Services, has been sprucing properties for 12 years. He suggests making the process as painless as possible — play music or use products designed to aid you. "Start in the kitchen," he says. "Pre-spray the oven with oven gel and allow it time to react while moving on to your cupboards." For the bathroom, cleaners that attack limescale are essential. For the rest of the house, he recommends specialist tools which are now being made in bright, contemporary tones to match today's multicoloured interiors.

For environmentally friendly homes: eco-friendly products, recommended by the Friends of the Earth, are available by mail order from the Natural Collection catalogue (01225 442288).

MARY ANN PERCY

ABOVE: Useful and sturdy folding kitchen steps, £110, from The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)

RIGHT: The ingenious Koziol Dustin, £21, from Purves & Purves (0171-580 8223) has a lizard-shaped brush sitting atop a leaf-shaped shovel

RIGHT: Handy cleaning tools. The plastic Mago broom (120cm), £25, from Purves & Purves (as before); Eletta mop (117cm), £3.95, from The Conran Shop (as before); metallic brush (130cm), £1.10, from The Home Place (as before)

RIGHT: These cheeky dusters, £12, come in two styles and in a range of vivid, two-tone colours. From Octopus (0171-371 5713; 0171-589 7715 mail order)

RIGHT: If you thought doing the dishes couldn't be fun try using the orange Tim dish brush, £7.15, from Purves & Purves (as before)

Photographs by **Des Jenson**



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The new Spring/Summer catalogue is packed full of exciting styles, fabrics and trims, all exclusive to Bonsoir.
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Knitted top with stripes, £9.99; pink suede skirt, £14.99; striped legwarmers, £3.99; floral belt, £3.99; pink and black beaded scarf, £5.99; suede side-button shoes, £10.99

Dressed in seconds



Purple lurex rollneck top, £9.99; lilac Crimplene skirt, £11.99; purple plastic belt, £4.99; leopard print clip-on braces, £2.99; black and blue striped tights, £1.99; purple suede shoes, £12.99



Kira: Top, £7.99; skirt, £15.99; scarf, £15.99; boots, model's own. Iris: Shirt, £10.99; belt, £2.99; skirt, £17.99; beaded scarf, as before. Earrings, £48, Butler & Wilson (as before)

Oxfam and *fashion*? Iris Palmer and Kira Jolliffe *test an unlikely* combination

It has long been taboo among "self-respecting" citizens to shop for second-hand clothes. Even in today's supposedly egalitarian world, upturned noses will still sneer about "hygiene", "germs" and "dead-man's smells" or will scoff at the idea of riffling through piles of multi-coloured garments or an array of Queen Mum-style dresses to find a rainbow-coloured jumper.

Now these types will have some of their fears eliminated — Oxfam recently opened a new chain of stores devoted to those who don't want to have to rummage through "granny's clothing" or rifle through polyester nighties to find an item they would consider wearing in public.

The stores, called Origin and based in fashionable areas of London and Manchester, have been fitted out like high-street chains, with wooden floors, slickly moulded counters and flash steel fittings on which to hang trendy gear. A dream for those who want cleanliness without grunginess, who want quirkiness without a hefty price tag.

Although the shops will cater perfectly to consumers in search of trendy gear, Oxfam still has two regular customers who will patronise their old-fashioned charity stores. Us. For us, there is nothing better than one of those old-fashioned, grungy shops which are free of up-tight, image-conscious people, and full to the brim with self-respecting old ladies who have no qualms about their identity and have minds of their own.

Broke students may whoop with joy at the thought of a second-hand "fashion store" which doesn't look like a charity shop. We are not so sure. For us, old clothes that have been thrown away are not "rubbish". (We take a great deal of pride in the fact that we accept things that have been rejected — especially if they are individual pieces that show up the horribly limited choice of styles other people wear on the high street).

And neither — as several sniffy detractors seem to imply — are charity shop clothes infested with "nasty diseases". Of all the clothes that we have bought, we would say that they were at their cleanest in the shop, having been carefully washed and ironed (and colour co-ordinated!) by the gracious volunteers therein.

Neither of us goes into a charity shop with a negative mind. Instead of saying things like "I can't wear this — someone could have died in it!", we will positively exclaim: "I could wear this — someone may have fallen in love for the first time" or "I bet this has been to some great rock gigs". For us, second-hand clothes have a story behind them, they've seen a lot, and so they have a mysterious personality.

Price is a big factor in our compulsion. Because of our fetish for buying more and more ridiculous clothes for equally ridiculous sartorial reasons, paying a quid or two for a skirt or blouse (this is quite possible) gives us much more room for experimentation and allows us to buy on a whim more often. It also means that we can afford to speculate on what the hot items will be, then snap them up before everyone else.

But buying second-hand is not all about cost — it is about charity and ethics, too. It is about recycling precious resources, giving what you can to those in need and forsaking pre-packaged items, "groovy" advertising and marketing men who want us to swallow a two-dimensional image of fashion. It is also about reinforcing who we are — exploring our personalities and expressing ourselves in a variety of styles within a limited budget.

The birth of Origin might make Oxfam millions of pounds by introducing second-hand clothes to a new market of trendy twenty-somethings — soon more than 40 stores across the country will have either entire departments or shelves stocking the label. This is great news — so long as they still stock our novelty jumpers and multi-coloured leg warmers, we will be happy.

As our pictures show, we are not the type who like to wear clothes picked by people who think they know who we are.

Photographs by **Anna Stevenson**
Models **Iris Palmer** and **Kira Jolliffe**

● *Kira Jolliffe is editor of Cheap Date magazine*
● *Shot on location at Sak bar, 49 Greek Street, W1 (0171-439 4159)*



Iris: Long-sleeved top, £5.99; sleeveless top, £12.99; skirt, £13.99; shoes, £25. Earrings, £48, choker, £178, both from Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-409 2955). Kira: Coat, £44.99; shoes, £12.99. Choker, £150, Agatha, 4 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-495 2779)



Kira: Black and red striped cotton top, £5.99. Black stretch jeans, £12. Iris: White knit cardigan with embroidered flowers, £10.99; bleached denim miniskirt, £8.99; pink satin lace-up vest, £4.99. Green plastic bangle, model's own. Diamanté hoop earrings, £48, Butler & Wilson (as before)

THREE OF A KIND

Charity shops have an array of sexy sandals and mules. Here are three worth hunting for.



LEFT: Gold satin block heel mule, £9.99.
CENTRE: Gold and silver leaf-motif mules, £12.99.
RIGHT: Red and gold ankle-strap sandals, £12.99.

Origin: 123a King's Road, SW3 (0171-531 7979); 26 Ganton Street, Soho, W1 (0171-437 7338); 22 Earlham Street, Covent Garden (0171-836 9669); Smithfields Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester (0161-839 3160)



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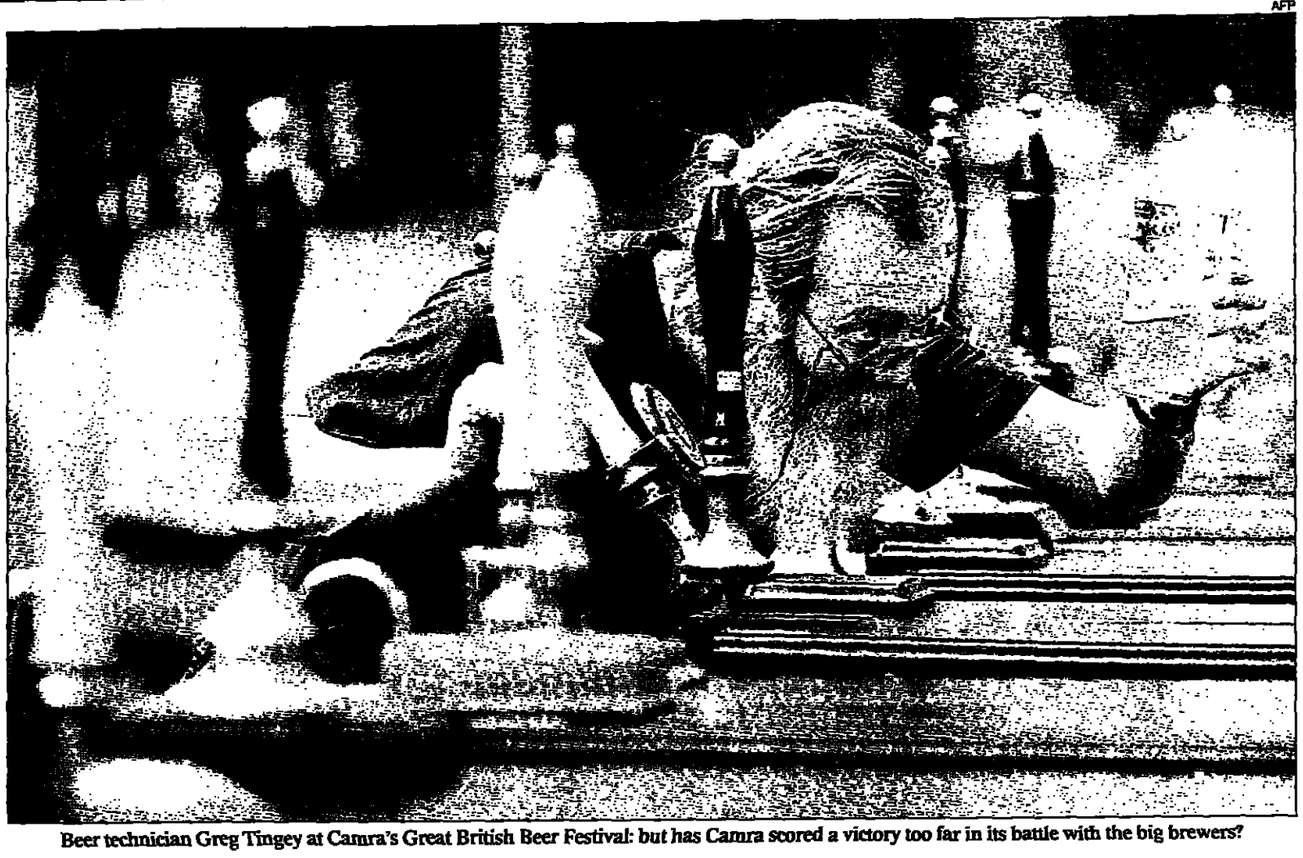
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Could Camra's greatest victory have turned sour for real ale, asks **Paul Lay**



AFP

Beer technician Greg Tingey at Camra's Great British Beer Festival: but has Camra scored a victory too far in its battle with the big brewers?

Battle for Britain's beer belly

Camra, the Campaign for Real Ale, has always recognised the irresistible link between a decent pint and a decent pub. Only a well-managed "house" with a cool, clean cellar, clear pipes and rapid turnover of ale can deliver Britain's fragile cask-conditioned brews in optimum condition, live and kicking.

But of the 60,000 pubs in the UK, only 5,000 or so are deemed worthy of inclusion in Camra's annual state of the nation report, *The Good Beer Guide*, now in its 25th edition. And the figure may not increase — the result of Camra, and the new breed of microbreweries, scoring a significant victory eight years ago.

Although most pubs — including those of Camra's *bêtes noires*, the national brewers, Bass, Carlsberg-Tetley, Guinness, Scottish Courage and Whitbread — stock real ale, few keep it in prime condition. There is little more unpleasant than a badly kept pint, one of the reasons for the spectacular rise in sales of nitrokegs, such as Bass's Caffrey's Ale, which arrived in Britain's bars in the Nineties boasting a nebulous Irish pedigree and a huge advertising budget. Lifeless, pasteurised beer served with the aid of carbon dioxide and nitrogen, nitrokeg beers are easy to keep, cheap to produce and sell at premium prices.

But nitrokegs are not the only threats to real ale — the biggest was born of a notable Camra victory. The Guest Beer Order, legislation that Camra had long campaigned for, was introduced in 1990 and allowed tenants of breweries owning more than 2,000 pubs — the nationals — to purchase a cask-conditioned beer from an independent supplier. At first there was a boom in microbreweries, the 350 or so small innovative brewing companies, most without their own pub outlet.

But the Order also led to the nationals selling off much of their pub stock to a new breed of company, outside the remit of the legislation, keen to run pubs as modern retailing centres, often concentrating on themed bars.

"Most of them are just retail outlets, as far away from the community pub as you can get," says Mike Benner, Camra's head of campaigns. And one can't help feeling that the kind of pubs the chains have a penchant for — cavernous, pumping affairs peopled by youths clutching half-drunk bottles of "continental" lager, albeit brewed in the East End — go very much against the average Camra member's view of the boozer as a "civilising" force, a place of contemplation and polite conversation.

Worse still, the nationals signed up exclusive supply deals with many chains, offering wholesale discounts of up to 50 per cent — seldom passed on to the consumer. The micros simply couldn't compete. "These moves towards central distribution have made it very difficult for smaller breweries to expand," says Benner.

Nick Stafford, treasurer of the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA), which represents the micros, agrees. His solution, endorsed by Camra and vehemently opposed by the nationals, is a sliding duty scale — the bigger you are, the more you pay. It works well in other countries.

But the 51,000 Camra-men and women — 30 per cent of the supposedly hirsute, pot-bellied membership is female — remain resolutely optimistic. "In 25 years' time the marketing men will have gone through every theme going," groans Benner, "Irish bars, Australian bars, South African — and then, no doubt, they'll settle on the traditional British pub."

And then the market really will have matured.

BREWING BROTHERS SEE A BRIGHT FUTURE

NORTH NEWS



Matthew and Garry Fawson at their Mordue brewery

"So far as we're concerned, the prospects for real ale are rosy," says Garry Fawson. He and his 23-year-old brother Matthew, Garry's junior by 11 years, are the minds and muscle behind Mordue, the much acclaimed Tyneside microbrewery which has been raking in the superlatives since the beginning of its short existence.

Their first brew, the best bitter Workie Ticket — Geordie slang for a loafer — last year took the ultimate accolade, Champion Beer of Great Britain, at Camra's Great British Beer Festival.

Unlike many, Garry sees the nationals retreat from brewing as an opportunity. "The nationals are run by accountants, not brewers," Garry says. "They've realised that there's more money in selling beer than brewing it. That opens a gap that we can plug."

There are notes of caution. The Fawsons strongly support Camra's demands for a sliding duty scale. "It's crucial," says Garry. "If the industry doesn't get some help from Government the pub trade in this country will disappear."

He would like to see changes from drinkers, too. "Far too many Camra types," Garry says, "are obsessed with the strength of a beer rather than its taste. Our best brew is Five Bridge. It's only 3.8 abv — real ale fans tend to turn their noses up at it — but that's a perfect strength for a beer."

P.L.

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SOUTHEAST

BRAINTREE, Silhouette Du Barry, Tel: 01376 321309; BRENTWOOD, Raymond Anthony, Tel: 01277 224448; CROYDON, Headmasters, Tel: 0181-686 3527; DARTFORD, Beyond the Fringe, Tel: 01322 289818; ESHER, Hair Associates, Tel: 01372 468282; HAM, Headmasters, Tel: 0181-549 2221; HORNCHURCH, Vanilla Room, Tel: 01708 452245; ILFORD, Level One, Tel: 0181-550 7073; INGATESTONE, Kennadys, Tel: 01277 353790; KINGSTON, Hair Associates, Tel: 0181 546 1772; Hair Associates, Bentall Centre, Tel: 0181-974 5445; LEIGH ON SEA, Jaz Hair & Beauty, Tel: 01702 78636; NEW MALDEN, Headmasters, Tel: 0181-942 5770; RAYLEIGH, Secrets, Tel: 01268 777990; RICHMOND, Headmasters, Tel: 0181-287 2222; Hair Associates, Tel: 0181-332 1488; SHENFIELD, New Image, Tel: 01277 215189; TEDDINGTON, Hair Associates, Tel: 0181-977 8199; THORPE BAY, Shear Success, Tel: 01702 582284; WEYBRIDGE, Headmasters, Tel: 01932 851248/851043

SOUTHWEST

BOURNEMOUTH, Level, Tel: 01202 535566; BRISTOL, Guy Fawkes, Tel: 0117-926 0401; CHELTENHAM, Jane & Company, Tel: 01242 570934; COSHAM, Eaton Hair Group, Tel: 01705 844006; FAREHAM, Nirvana, Tel: 01329 827711; HAVANT, Eaton Hair Group, Tel: 01705 476035; KNAPHILL, Eclipse, Tel: 01483 888528; PORTSMOUTH, Eaton Hair Group, Tel: 01705 816414; SOUTHAMPTON, Storm, Tel: 01703 237414; SOUTHSEA, Eaton Hair Group, Tel: 01705 826119; WATERLOOVILLE, Eaton Hair Group, Tel: 01705 263092; Eaton Hair Group, Tel: 01705 258743; Sheer Elegance, Tel: 01705 241212; WINCHESTER, Guy Kremer, Tel: 01962 860149; Storm, Tel: 01962 850850; WOKINGHAM, Zappas, 01734 790043

MIDLANDS

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NORTHEAST

ASHINGTON, The Head Gardener, Tel: 01670 818123; BARNSLEY, Russell Eaton, Tel: 01226 244809; BRIGHOUSE, Roger David, Tel: 01484 710283; HEXHAM, Jobi & Co, Tel: 01434 607606; HUDDERSFIELD, Roger David, Tel: 01484 516171; LEEDS, Saks, Tel: 0113-246 7666; MORPETH, The Head Gardener, Tel: 01670 516767; NEWCASTLE, Y Salon, Tel: 0191-230 1010; SUNDERLAND, Q Hair, Tel: 0191-536 2626

NORTHWEST

BOOTLE, Spencer Lucas, Tel: 0151-933 7797; LIVERPOOL, Blades, Tel: 0151-724 6062; Way Ahead, Tel: 0151-480 6282; SOUTHPORT, Spencer Hair, Tel: 01704 548881; Spencer Hair, Tel: 01704 535888; WALTON VALE, Spencer Lucas, Tel: 0151-524 2398; WATERLOO, Lucas Hair, Tel: 0151-920 7644; WIRRAL, Stephen Jeffrey, Tel: 0151-605 0859

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN, Red Z, Tel: 01224 658900; DUNDEE, Jack & Irving, Tel: 01382 224829; DUNFERMLINE, Greens, Tel: 01383 721648; ELLON, Red Z, Tel: 01358 722268; GLASGOW, Andrew Kay, Tel: 0141-639 3772; Coia, Tel: 0141-334 9288; GLENROTHES, Alison Stewart, Tel: 01592 612404; HADDINGTON, Headlengths, Tel: 01620 824030; LEITH, Medusa, Tel: 0131-554 9499; MUSSELBURGH, Headfirst, Tel: 0131-665 3054; PAISLEY, Patrick's, Tel: 0141-848 1364; Romuald SA, Tel: 0141-848 7588

WALES

BUCKLEY, Streaks Ahead, Tel: 01244 546485; MENAI BRIDGE, Ceri & Morus, Tel: 01248 716 357; MOLD, Streaks Ahead, Tel: 01352 756065; PORTHMADOG, Ceri & Morus, Tel: 01766 512243; PWTHELLI, Ceri & Morus, Tel: 01758 613231; RHYL, Hair by Cruze, Tel: 01745 330348; TALBOT GREEN, Shaltons, Tel: 01443 229292; SWANSEA, Lara Johnson, Tel: 01792 363333

L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL PARIS

CHANGING TIMES

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

WITH SO many days of rain behind us, thoughts have frequently returned to some of the more comforting foods: soups and casseroles, stews and broths. After a good journey through the wet, this is the type of thing that most of us hunger for.

It was only the other day that I came home cold, wet and knackered. I wanted something apart from whisky to restore me. Our store cupboard at home is a bit like a lucky dip. It is full of jars and tins of condiments, seasoning and strange-looking samples that never made it to the Foodmarket on the fifth floor, or were removed as they approached their sell-by date.



So I dived in to rummage through the salsa di salmone, cotechino (no box left, how old is it?) and turned up a tin of cooked green lentils. Good old tinned veg! This was exactly what I was after. I immediately went into Cheat of the Week mode.

BAY AND LENTIL SOUP

Serves 4

Take a heavy saucepan that has a lid. Place it on the heat: add a splash of olive oil, two large onions, finely sliced, and four bacon rashers cut into strips. Fry briskly for five minutes, then cover and cook on medium heat for ten minutes or until onion has softened.

Meanwhile take a 30cm length of baguette and rub it with a peeled garlic clove, slice into rounds and drizzle with a olive oil and bake in the oven until crisp.

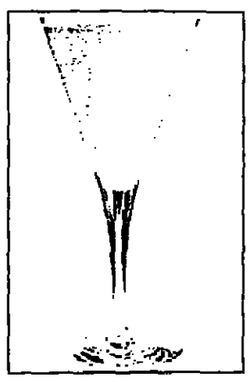
Take the lid off the pan and give it a good stir, season with salt and pepper and add four large bay leaves, one litre of chicken stock and two tins of lentils, drained and rinsed. Bring back to the boil and simmer for twenty minutes.

Finally, check the seasoning and ladle into four soup plates along with the garlic croutons.

● *The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols fifth-floor restaurant in Knightsbridge*

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

White Lady



THIS ghostly figurine, created by the legendary Harry MacElhone at Ciro's club, London, in 1919, once rivalled the Dry Martini in the gin-based cocktail stakes.

The original — with Crème de menthe — was updated in 1929 at Harry's address in Paris (famously passed by word of mouth as Sank Roo Doe Noo): to equal thirds of gin, Cointreau and lemon juice.

Cocktails, however, are ordered on an "I'll-have-what-she's-having basis", and so remain mortally susceptible to the vagaries of etymological fashion and prejudice. And although this generous balance of the sweet and the sharp makes for an ideal pick-me-up before dinner, no one will order a drink with the word "lady" in it these days.

Feminists deplore its use, and, by common consent, only bimbos past their sell-by date would appreciate the tag now (although within living memory both Baroness Thatcher and the unwitting alsatian belonging to Harry Enfield's Loadsamoney creation have gloried in it).

The Pink and Blue Ladies have also suffered, but the often merciless wheel of irony can return a product to the affections of a fickle drinking public and, with Studio 54 due back in business, I would not be shocked to see the old girl again, perhaps with a complimentary line of cocaine and a relaunch as The White Tramp.

KATE STRONACH

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

Allowing wine to breathe is a waste of time — and so, in most cases, is the practice of decanting

The time has come to lay to rest one of the most obdurate wine myths. Wine is not alive, it does not breathe. It does not improve with exposure to air. In fact, like any corpse, or other dead thing, it deteriorates.

The recent discovery by Dr Pier Giuseppe Agostoni, a University of Milan cardiologist, and Dr Nirmal B. Charan of the VA Medical Center in Boise, Idaho, of the futility of letting wine breathe came as no surprise to me. They concluded that there was no chemical difference between five identical bottles of cabernet sauvignon opened at different times: one bottle was opened just before the tasting, the other four had their corks removed and were allowed to stand for two, four, six and 24 hours.

The experiment began as an argument at dinner, with Dr Agostoni demanding, as most Italians would, that the red they were due to drink should be opened in advance for it to be allowed to breathe. Dr Charan said it would not alter the taste of the wine. After the experiment they agreed that the only discernible chemical change was that the oxygen level increased slightly and there was hardly any change in the carbon dioxide level at all. Dr Charan conceded that wine left in a large, open glass might show a difference because the surface area of wine to air was much greater than if you had merely removed the cork from a bottle.



The UK wine trade's reaction to this experiment was typical. Young and open-minded merchants such as Simon Farr of Bibendum said that you did not need the intellect of a rocket scientist to realise that simply removing cork from bottle would make little difference to the taste of the wine. Unsurprisingly, conservative merchants such as Berry Bros & Rudd continued to maintain that breathing was very important, "just to let the wine sort itself out".

Unfortunately for new or impressionable wine drinkers, harmful wine practices continue to be advocated. Tradition is the cause, as is the ridiculous notion that wine is somehow alive, a viewpoint still expressed by many of today's wine commentators.

Let me set the record straight once and for all. The only reaction going on in a bottle that has been put away to mature and improve is slow oxidation, mostly via the cork but also from the inch or two of air trapped inside the bottle. Thus, big, hefty, tannic red wines that have spent years in cask acquiring oaky scents and structure take very happily to losing some of their aggressive fruit and oak by deliberate ageing. If a wine were truly alive, putting on flesh, or indeed with yeast still ticking over in it, there would be popping corks and bursting bottles all over the place.

Leading on from the "leaving wine to breathe" debate is the thorny question of decanting. This is another old chestnut that refuses to go away. For once the French have got it right — the only reason for decanting is to remove sediment.

French wine gurus such as Professor Emile Peynaud declare that the notion of wines being left to breathe is humbug and that the moment wine is exposed to air, some sensory characteristics are lost and the wine begins to deteriorate. Peynaud maintains that oxygen dissolved in wine is harmful and, thus, even wines with thick sediment should be decanted only just before serving.

The traditional and current British viewpoint on decanting, put about by old guards such as Hugh Johnson and the like, is that it is good and somehow softens, smooths and improves the wine. What rubbish.

Occasionally, I have come across wines that initially have a malodorous, stale air aspect to them, know as "bottlestink" in the trade. This is easily dissipated by giving the wine a good swirl round in the glass. Any wine suffering from an overdose of sulphur can also sometimes be saved by a good airing in the glass.

If you want the best from your bottle, ignore dead-duck ideas such as breathing and decanting. Take my advice and use your common sense when assessing the wine you are to drink. Tight reds such as sturdy rhônes and young clarets generally welcome swirling before swilling. Frail reds such as the finest and rarest mature burgundy and claret do not and should be drunk immediately. Any delay, and you will be greeted by a mushroomy, monotone glassful instead of a glorious orchestra of flavours. And don't be fooled by that Italian and Spanish excuse for bad wine — the claim that their top reds such as barolo and riga gran reservas need to be opened 24 hours in advance of drinking. This is bunkum.

STAR BUYS

1997 Domaine des Lions Sauvignon Blanc, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Victoria Wine £3.99.

Sauvignon makes a welcome change from chardonnay, and its vibrant, verdant fruit is particularly suited to summer aperitif swigging. This classic juicy, grassy, gooseberry-redolent edition, with a fine, crisp, mouthwatering finish is typical of the new-wave examples from the Languedoc.



1997 Grenache, Vin de Pays des Coteaux de l'Ardèche, Victoria Wine £3.49.

The warming grenache grape is one of the Rhône valley's key red varieties and its hearty, spicy style also shines here in one of the region's vin de pays satellites. Made from grenache that had a traditional fermentation with no oak ageing, the result is a ripe, easy, peppery, spicy red that will make good summer glugging.



BEST OF THE REST

Somerfield and Gateway score again this month with 50p off the brilliant, plummy 1996 Bright Brothers Atlantic Wines Bega from Portugal (£3.49) and £1 off the rich, creamy 1996 Nottage Hill sparkling chardonnay (£5.99). There is also £1 off their own-label 1996 Hautes Côtes de Beaune Blanc and 1995 Rouge, both reasonable burgundy offerings (£5.99).

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The Times Cook



Frances Bissell

Whether you want a quick snack or a gastronomic feast, you can create a sandwich to satisfy every appetite

Next week is National Sandwich Week, an excuse for celebrating one of Britain's major contributions to international gastronomy.

The British sandwich, *le sandwich anglais*, has taken Paris by storm. As fast as they fill the shelves at Marks & Spencer in Boulevard Haussmann with chicken tikka, reduced-fat chicken salad, and egg and cheddar sandwiches, they sell out. That particular store is the biggest seller of sandwiches in the whole chain. And the medium-sliced loaf is the third biggest seller (muffins are top).

Is this, perhaps, a comment on the falling standards of French bread-making, or an indication that the French are becoming more broad-minded about their food habits? Certainly sandwich shops abound in Paris now, and with rather more exotic fillings than ours. I have not yet seen foie gras sandwiches in Prêt à Manger here, but they have them on the room service menu at Le Bristol in Paris.

In my repertoire there are two entirely different sandwiches. There is the sandwich as meal replacement. This includes the burger, the barbecue, the lobster club, the baguette stuffed full of cured ham, the thick layer of Roquefort between grilled slices of "pain Poilâne", the hero, the sub, *the hoagie, the Reuben, the Philly* cheese-steak and many others.



Comforting and satisfying, a sandwich like this is sometimes just what you want to eat. A generous, highly-flavoured filling, combined with fairly sturdy bread, makes an excellent lunch or supper, and is easy on the washing-up.

However, you can also build such a sandwich into a suitable centrepiece for casual entertaining. Have all the ingredients on the table, and let your guests make up their own sandwiches, adding toppings and accompaniments to taste. Breaded fried fillets of fish, or hamburgers, will need buns; pickles; some onions, thinly-sliced and marinated in rice vinegar; some relishes; hot sauce; tartare sauce; and coleslaw.

The most luxurious sandwich I have ever tasted was Ann Rosenzweig's lobster club, at her restaurant, The Lobster Club, on New York's Upper East Side. This is indeed a whole meal on a large platter, a two hander of a sandwich, and absolutely delicious. I have always liked crab as much as lobster, and today I give you my "crab club" recipe.

The other sandwich in my repertoire is the archetypal tea sandwich. Whether you cut it into small triangles or fingers, or stamp out fancy shapes, this sandwich will not embarrass you. You will not bite into it and find a slice of rare roast beef hanging down your face, or a squirt of tomato seeds down your front. But it is still a generously filled sandwich. The tea sandwich must be delicious, and irresistible, so no mean slices of cheese or hard-boiled egg.

The structure is simple. The main filling is chopped, potted, pounded, or grated, mixed with a little cream, yoghurt, gravy or mayonnaise to bind it. An appropriately flavoured butter is made up, some pieces of greenery chosen. One slice of the bread is spread with filling, one with the butter. The two are slapped together with the greenery in between.

A richer sandwich can be made by buttering both slices of bread. Crusts are cut off, and the sandwich cut in half, quarters, fingers, or whatever. You will quickly realise that if you are making finger sandwiches, or shapes, it pays to have your loaf of bread sliced along its length.

The principle I use can be applied to every possible sandwich filling that you can think of, and with a few of my ideas to get you started, you can make up your own unique sandwich collection.

Potted chicken and asparagus with lemon butter
Makes 24 finger sandwiches

- 250g cooked chicken
- 100ml rich chicken gravy
- A few sprigs of parsley or chives
- Salt
- Pepper
- 125g softened butter
- 2tspn lemon juice
- Grated lemon zest
- 12 slices of bread
- 12 fresh asparagus stalks, cooked, and halved down the middle

Chop the chicken and mix it, by hand, or in a food processor, with the gravy, herbs and seasonings.

Mix the butter with lemon juice and zest, and butter the bread in the usual way. Spread the chicken mixture on one slice of buttered bread, and cut the asparagus stalks to fit. Place the second buttered slice of bread on top, cut off crusts and cut into finger sandwiches.

More sandwich suggestions:

Devilled ham, chutney butter and watercress; potted beef, horseradish butter and rocket: cream cheese, lemon and walnut butter and mizuna: egg mayonnaise, chutney butter and cress; potted smoked salmon, lemon butter and cucumber.

Crab club sandwich
Serves 1

- 1 generous portion white crab meat
- 1tspn Jalapēno Tabasco
- 1tbsp crème fraîche or mayonnaise
- Salted butter, softened
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1tbsp fresh coriander or chervil, finely chopped
- ½ ripe avocado, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 ripe tomato, seeded and thinly sliced
- 3 slices of bread, lightly toasted if you wish
- Seasoning
- Iceberg or other lettuce, shredded

Mix the crab, Tabasco and crème fraîche or mayonnaise. Mix the butter, sufficient to spread on three slices of bread, with the pepper and herbs. Butter the bread, then build up the first layer of avocado and tomato; season lightly. Place the middle slice of bread on top, and spread the crab on it. Top with shredded lettuce, then the final slice of bread. Spear with cocktail sticks in strategic positions, then cut the sandwich in quarters, or otherwise as appropriate.

ALAN ADLER



The hoagie
Serves 1

- 1 long bread roll or half baguette
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Oregano, chopped
- Iceberg lettuce, finely shredded
- 1 or 2 ripe, sweet tomatoes, thinly sliced
- Generous portion of salami, mortadella and other Italian salume, thinly sliced
- Mayonnaise
- Optional extras: sliced artichoke hearts, sliced hot or medium hot peppers

Split the roll down the middle, but leave a "hinge". Take out some of the soft crumb, and brush the roll with olive oil, and sprinkle with herbs. Layer the lettuce, tomatoes and meat, and finish with a squiggle of mayonnaise. Clamp together, and eat in both hands.

The famous Philly cheese-steak
Serves 1

- 1 long, soft, fresh bread roll
- 1 generous portion of steak, very thinly sliced (see note)
- 3 or 4 thin slices of cheese (see note)
- Optional extras: Tabasco; sliced or whole chillies; fried onions

Halve the roll without cutting all the way through, and discard some of the filling. Warm the roll in the oven or on the griddle. On an oiled griddle or frying pan, fry the steak, flipping it until done. Cram it into the bun, add the cheese slices, and any extras. Clamp together and serve.

Note: Very thinly sliced "sandwich steak" is available in supermarkets, or slice your own from a tail-end of fillet steak. Cheese can be thinly sliced cheddar, provolone or what you will.

The Reuben sandwich
Serves 1

- 2 slices light rye bread
- 2 or 3 forkfuls sauerkraut from jar, can or vacuum pack
- American mustard, or other, to taste
- 1 generous portion corned beef or Pastrami, sliced
- Dill pickle
- Crisps

Toast the bread on one side only. The centre of the sandwich needs to be soft rather than crisp in order to grip the filling. Meanwhile, heat up the sauerkraut. Spread the untoasted side of the bread with mustard. Arrange the meat on top, and heap on the sauerkraut. Clamp on the top slice of rye. Cut in half, and spear with cocktail sticks. Serve with pickle and crisps on the side.

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Next week:
Institutional food

THE PERFECT SCRAMBLED EGG

A FEW years ago a court case hinged on, among other things, the correct way to cook scrambled eggs. Celebrities and experts were consulted. I had to admit to having a husband who scrambled his eggs with milk, whereas everyone knows that butter, and, at a pinch, a little water, are the only other admissible ingredients, apart from seasoning, of course.

■ YOU NEED, for two people: 4-6 large free-range eggs, salt, pepper, 1-2 tablespoons water and 50g unsalted butter, chilled and diced.

■ METHOD: Lightly beat the eggs with salt, pepper and a tablespoon of water. Stir in half the diced butter, and pour the eggs into a non-stick frying pan, set over a very gentle heat.

Stir the eggs continuously, adding the remaining butter gradually. This lowers the temperature of the eggs, preventing them setting too hard. The eggs should be creamy and rich, not grainy and firm. You may need to add the extra spoon of water.

■ TO SERVE: Hot buttered toast, with, if you like, a spoonful of caviare on top. You can, for an elegant starter, spoon the egg into clean egg shells, and top with a sliver of smoked salmon or teaspoon of salmon roe.

Next week:
The perfect poached egg



CONSUMING INTERESTS: COD IN BREADCRUMB



■ The quick and easy, not very smelly and notably unmessy way of cooking fish is to buy ready-crumbed portions, which can be baked, fried or grilled.

I find baking best, though pre-heating the tray seems important to avoid adhesion and broken batter. Almost invariably the fish needs longer than the supermarkets' guidelines suggest to come out crisp, but that may just be my oven.

This is one convenience food that I still consider a minor boon on concert nights. ROBIN YOUNG

Morrisons Chunky Breaded Cod, *£1.99 for 320g.*
Claims: "Cod fillets in oven ready crumb. Warning: This product may contain some bones."
Verdict: There was a dash of mustard and black pepper extract in the batter, the crumb crisped well, and left the thick portion of fish within moist, plump and flaky. ★★★★

Somerfield Breaded Chunky Cod Fillets, *£2.29 for 320g.*
Claims: "Chunky cod fillets in an ovencrisp crumb. Fat, 14.1g per portion."
Verdict: The thicker pieces of fish required an extra couple of minutes in the oven, but some of the batter at corners was still undercooked. ★★

Waitrose Prime Cut Breaded Cod Skinless Fillets, *£2.49 for 320g.*
Claims: "Filleting removes all major bones: some small bones may remain. Fat, 8.7 per cent."
Verdict: Disappointing. The nice-looking, flat, five-sided wedges turned out wet and soggy with undercooked batter on the underside. Not so flavoury either. ★

St Michael 2 Prime Cod Fillets in a Light Crispy Breadcrumb, *£1.99 for 255g from Marks & Spencer.*
Claims: "Skinless & boneless. Bake Grill or Fry." Fat, 8.6 per cent.
Verdict: Shallow triangles of bone-free fillet provided the most refined appearance of all the samples but undercooked batter left an unwelcome undertow of floury stodginess. ★★½

Tesco 2 Prime Chunky Cod Fillets in a Crunchy Ovencrisp Crumb, *£2.49 for 320g.*
Claims: "Skinned & Boned." Fat, 5.9 per cent.
Verdict: I preferred this "chunky" formulation to Tesco's standard cod fillets (£1.79 for 284g) in which fat content rises to 8.3 per cent. ★★★½

Co-op Prime Cod in Crispy Breadcrumbs, *£2.19 for 320g.*
Claims: "Product of UK." 13.9g fat.
Verdict: Two middling thick portions in crumb, which turned out crisply. ★★½

Asda 2 Cod Fillets in Crispy Crumb, *£1.49 for 260g.*
Claims: "Skinless and Boneless. Shaped from 100 per cent natural cod fillet."
Verdict: 12g of fat per portion, but the fillets grilled and fried well. Good value for those with modest appetites. ★★★

It's going to be gnocchi next

An East End star has learnt to cook exotic meals, says Mary Ann Percy

HOME COOKING

Patsy Palmer is famous for her role as the gobby redhead, Bianca Butcher, in the BBC1 soap opera *EastEnders*. But in real life, Patsy, one of the few real East Enders on the show, is better known for a colourful dress sense (of which one critic said "she goes where even Fergie fears to tread"), and her blossoming culinary skills.

Her adoring mum, Pat, is amazed at how adventurous her daughter is with food these days. She recalls a king prawn salad Patsy produced recently. "To me that's restaurant food," she says. And next on the menu? "She wants to make me gnocchi, those little Italian dumplings. I have never tried them before."

Patsy, 25 (her real name is Julie Harris), had a "classic East End upbringing", eating pie and mash locally on Saturday afternoons, going to the chippy with her friends and spending summer holidays by the sea in Kent.

She is very close to her family, emotionally and geographically. Her mother and stepfather live just two streets away from her in Bethnal Green and her two elder brothers are regular visitors at her two-bedroom Victorian house.

After a fight with drug abuse and anorexia following the break-up of her relationship with the father of her son Charley, Patsy is now extremely healthy, her mother is pleased to say.

"She doesn't drink alcohol and always has a good breakfast," she says. Before a heavy day filming *EastEnders* at Elstree Studios in Hertfordshire, Patsy will often fill up on a plate of beans on toast topped with grated cheese.

Patsy's interest in cooking started when she left the family nest aged 20 and moved into her own flat with her son Charley, now six. "I'm surprised at what a good cook she is," says Pat. "She only ever boiled herself an egg when she lived at home." Now, as an independent mother, Patsy's culinary skills have taken flight.

No stranger to the glossy pages of gossip magazines, Patsy often frequents the kind of swanky London restaurants that as a child her parents could not afford. The Ivy is a favourite haunt and recently she treated her mother to lunch at Quaglino's. Pat was impressed by the "Scarlett O'Hara" style sweeping staircase but was not overtly seduced by the gourmet sausages, mash and onions they both ordered.

"I wouldn't say it was any better than when I make it," she confides. Although slowly becoming more daring with food thanks to Patsy's influence, Pat is weary of her daughter's penchant for foreign dishes.

"She loves Thai food as a take-away," she says. "But to me it looks like plain rice and watery vegetables. If I'm going to have a curry I like it to be a rich, red colour."

After recently acquiring a taste for Japanese food, Patsy suggested that her mother try it. "I said, 'Oh no, I couldn't eat that raw fish.' When I was pregnant I couldn't even walk near a wet fish shop. I don't like funny-looking food. I like to know what it is I'm eating."



As a child Patsy, with mother Pat, enjoyed pie and mash

"What kind of loving would you expect from Mr Bean?"

BOOK AT BEDTIME continues with Sean Bean reading "A Kind of Loving" – Stan Barstow's tale of love in Yorkshire. Weekday evenings, from Monday 11 May, 10.45 – 11.00.

BBC RADIO 4
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YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

'At this time of year the stink is so overwhelming that my husband has thought of renaming our home The House at Pooh Corner'

Can you smell something, dear?

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

I was thrilled to read this week that Umweltschutz Nord, a German environmental firm, is applying for permission to mix old banknotes with potato peelings and turn them into fertiliser. This sounds infinitely more pleasant than the system prevailing in the UK, where we're stuck with semi-liquid animal manure.

I live on a crossroads where two agribusinesses meet — one specialising in pigs, the other in poultry, and at this time of year, when the slurry tankers get going, the stink is so overwhelming that my husband has thought of renaming our home The House at Pooh Corner.

These smells settle on the landscape like a suffocating blanket and, strangely, they don't bear any relation to familiar animal odours at all. Find yourself downwind, and you aren't reminded of a piglet or a chicken, but of an image from a nightmare: the bottom of a giant's dirty laundry basket.

And, of course, after days of low-lying smog comes something even more intrusive: flies. Freshly hatched from the slurry, they cram in through our doors and windows and invade every aspect of domestic life. There are polar swarms in the fridge, and amphibious ones in the bathroom; everything we eat or drink has been sampled by them, and they rustle ceaselessly about on top of us while we try to sleep. They even invade the car, which I find particularly trying: it's so humiliating going shopping with one's own personal swarm in tow.

Although I have the occasional wild fantasy about hoovering up all the flies and blowing them in through the window of the farmer responsible, slurry-spreading is a fact of country life, an inevitable part of modern farming. Having a small acreage, we still bed our animals down with straw and compost, a process which produces no smell and very few flies. Before the last war most farmers farmed as we do, growing their own cereals for their animals to eat and, as a by-product, producing the bedding for them to lie on. But nowadays large-scale enterprises specialise in either cereals or livestock. Since it's expensive to ship in straw from elsewhere, animal farmers tend to rely on management systems which don't use it — and create huge quantities of slurry instead.

Unfortunately, while a good muck-pile can wait around forever, slowly turning itself into high-grade soil, slurry becomes an uncontainable problem. This process has reached its logical extreme in Holland, where with more liquid dung than there is land to spread it on, dung quotas have had to be introduced for cattle and pigs, effectively limiting the number of animals that can be kept per hectare. This has had a bizarre effect on Dutch romantic life. It's rumoured that farmers there choose their wives not on the basis of their intelligence or beauty — but on the size of their dung quota.

Maybe dung has always been indissolubly linked with power and sex, but at times the connection's a trifle hard to accept. Round here it seems as if the one thing farmers want to do, once they become rich enough, is inflict an eye-watering pong on their friends and neighbours. Where a city millionaire might lavish his fortune on a Ferrari and a blonde, in our part of Devon wealthy men appear to dream only of spreading acres of putrescent dung. It gives a whole new spin to the phrase "stinking rich".

It seems especially unkind to impose the odours of agribusiness on a rural community because country folk are so reluctant to complain. They don't want to fall out with their neighbours because they fear they may need them in a crisis.

In fact, it's by their reaction to an atrocious smell that you can always tell the difference between a countryman and a townie. While the true rustic will sit and brood resentfully about a pong, an incomer will be ringing county hall to find out if there's a pollution officer to hand. (I've often thought of compiling a questionnaire which would separate archetypal country and town responses. Another obvious contender would be the following scenario: "Skidding on roadside slurry, you accidentally run over a deer: do you rush it to the vet, or hide it in your freezer?")

I'm not claiming that small, organic-style farms don't ever produce fumes of their own. Poverty, like wealth, has its own distinctive aromas. Before the war our village used to be famous for its illegal stills, and these gave off a peculiar odour, reminiscent of burning rubber.

More recently, a neighbouring smallholder, who was short of money and couldn't afford to pay the hunt £40 to take away a dead cow, decided to destroy the corpse by secretly burning it on a bonfire. The ruse worked, but the whole village smelt, most mysteriously, of barbecue-flavour crisps.

It occurs to me that perhaps the best part of Umweltschutz Nord's proposition for turning banknotes into mulch and spreading them on the land is not that it's a sound, smell-free option — but that it acts as a cunning satirical metaphor for the present parlous state of farming.

Out with puffin Billy

Birding is taking off. Bill Oddie shows **Matthew Brace** why in Hampstead



BBC

Birding celebrity Bill Oddie gets within inches of a puffin, one of many cliff-dwellers which feature in his new television series

To catch Bill Oddie you have to be up with the lark — or the chiffchaff or great crested grebe, depending on your preference. Most mornings you can find him squelching through the dew on Hampstead Heath in north London with a couple of birding mates, wrapped in fleece jackets against the chill and with binoculars glued to their eyes.

"We are not twitchers. Please don't call us twitchers, it's inaccurate," he pleads. "We are bird watchers or birders."

There's a difference?

"Oh yes, twitchers are the anoraky side of birding. They are out to spot and list as many rare birds as they can. They've got mobile phones, pagers — all the latest gadgets to make sure they don't miss one.

"They are the ones you see charging all over the country at the slightest mention of a rare visitor, as if they have a nervous twitch. What we do is watch birds for pleasure. Of course it's nice to see rare stuff, and I do make records, but I'm not going to break my neck racing somewhere to do it."

Shortly after 6am with a watery, spring sun rising over London's northeast sprawl, I joined him for a birding lesson. We were lucky with the weather — clear skies and a light east wind from Europe likely to be carrying summer migrants. The conditions are not always so kind but nothing puts off the serious birder.

Bill Oddie's new television series *Birding with Bill Oddie* tries to fathom the attraction of sitting for hours in boggy marshes in sub-zero temperatures waiting for a bird which may or may not appear.

"It's to show why birds turn me on, to explain that we are not all bonkers, and it is to teach people to train their eyes and ears to be able to enjoy birds," he says.

He is well placed to give such answers, having been an avid birder for 50 years, starting aged seven in his native West Midlands when he stole a turquoise egg from a dunnock's nest. He is still embarrassed about it and regrets the theft but says it taught him a lot at a young age about what was later to become his passion.

The series is timely as birding has never been so popular. It is one of Britain's booming industries. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) announced its millionth member last autumn, in a year which saw its income top £37 million from subscriptions, legacies, and mainly from grants and fundraising through shops and gifts. The society is expected to earn £40 million this financial year.

According to the producer of the series, Stephen Moss (himself an authority on feathered friends), birding went through a yuppie stage in the Eighties with blokes charging around the country in fast cars trying to out-do each other with the longest camera lenses and by spotting the rarest birds, ticking them off their lists and boasting about it in the pub afterwards — this was twitching. Now in the caring Nineties the dominant force is birding — a much more genteel pastime involving spotting birds for pleasure.

Chris Harbard, the RSPB's press officer, says the fear that songbirds such as the song thrush and skylark are disappearing from our fields has also inspired people to sign up.

"More people are joining us not because they like the robins in their back garden but because they know something is wrong out there, and because there is this wealth of wildlife in people's living rooms with television series like Bill's making them more aware," he says.

> 'We want to teach people to enjoy birds properly'

Up on the Heath, Bill and his birding pal Peter were scanning the skies, explaining they were looking for "vis mig" — visible migration — where summer visitors arrive or over-fly London. Despite his retreat from mainstream comedy in favour of the more serious world of birding, he has not lost his sense of humour and gave a Johnny Morris-like commentary on the birds flying by.

"Cormorants always look like they are going somewhere quickly. As if they've said to each other 'right, we've had enough of the Heath, we're off to the Brent reservoir, quick, quick'." He has seen all sorts of "human mig" up here over the years as well. "We've got joggers running around killing themselves with exhaustion, dog walkers by the thousand — there's a kind of dog rush-hour between 7.30am and 8.30am. There are parks people destroying hedgerows for no apparent reason, weird people doing tai chi, even the druids come up here.

"We don't just talk about birds, you know. We discuss life and sport. I go on about cricket, pretending to be far more interested than I really am, and Peter pretends to be far more interested in rugby football than he is..."

He broke off again. The first common tern of the summer was diving over the rooftops. I spotted this one thanks to its white wings glinting in the early light. Bill took out a chubby notebook and jotted it down. It will form part of his latest bird report to the London Natural History Society. Although this is his home patch, in the series he indulges himself with trips to some more far-flung locations.

The first programme finds him in the wild isles of Shetland, closer to Norway than the British mainland and the land of the midnight sun. He gets within inches of cliff-dwelling puffins ("little old men in dinner jackets") and dive-bombed by great skuas, escaping injury by adopting the hat-on-a-stick trick. The series follows him to the south coast, the Midlands, Norfolk, back to London and off to Trinidad and Tobago where, for the only time in a year of filming, rain stopped play.

"The facilities and mechanics may have changed but the excitement of birding hasn't," he said. "It can be the thrill of seeing one special little bird or the spectacle of literally thousands of wild swans coming in to roost.

"Listen. Woodpecker calling. Can you hear it? Never mind, you'll get there one day." he grinned and disappeared into a bush in pursuit.

● *Birding with Bill Oddie starts on Monday on BBC2 at 8pm*

Nesting instinct is hard to resist

FEATHER REPORT

THERE is a unique thrill in gently parting the foliage of a bush and finding oneself looking down into a bird's nest with eggs in it. The carefully tended eggs are so warm, fragile and beautiful. The common birds' eggs are all so different, too — the song thrush's eggs light blue with a few ink-spots, the hedge sparrow's a rich, even blue, the robin's white suffused with red, the blackbird's bluish-green thickly mottled with orange-brown.

When I was a boy I used to go nesting at this time of the year, and had a very good eye for a significant thickening in a hedge as I looked up at it against the light. Once I found a robin's nest in an ivy-covered bank beneath a hedge just because I suddenly saw a robin's bright eyes looking out at me from between the leaves. I never took the eggs, but if a nest was too high to see into I would often feel the eggs and count them, and take one out to look at if I was not sure what species the bird was.

Occasionally, I will admit, an egg got broken in this way, and I would not touch the eggs now. In fact, there seems to be even more reason nowadays for not handling birds' eggs. A recent study by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds suggests that the eggshells of some birds are getting thinner.

Eggs of blackbirds, song thrushes, mistle thrushes and ring ousels in museums from 1850 were measured for thickness, and compared with eggs today. There was a clear thinning in all four species, though blackbird and song thrush eggs have recovered slightly since 1960. The birds are presumably eating less calcium, but no one knows why this is. It may be because snails have become less common, and pieces of snail shell figure less in the birds' diet.

I know some conscientious young birdwatchers who would never go anywhere near a nest once they had realised it was there. I do not hunt for nests any more, since one can certainly endanger the birds if one does.

Incubating birds do not abandon their nests very readily, but if they are frightened off the eggs too often they might desert, or the eggs may get chilled. More seriously, if one disarranges the foliage round a nest, a hungry magpie or jay may read the signs and discover it.

If one finds a nest in one's garden, one can sometimes put some netting above or below it to keep off magpies and cats, but one must be very careful not to alarm the parents or interfere with their regular route to the nest.

Nevertheless, I think that an occasional glance at the eggs when the incubating bird has gone off them to feed is a legitimate pleasure, provided one does not expose them to danger. Perhaps my most memorable experience of looking into a nest is when I flushed a blackbird accidentally from a low bush, saw the nest just below me, and realised that one of the eggs in it was just hatching. I was with two small children, and we saw the hole in the egg get bigger, the shell crack, and the damp, half-naked chick emerge into daylight. We hurried off, so that the mother could come back and keep it warm. But that was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Listen out for the purring song of turtle doves.*
Twitchers — alpine swift at St Helens, Isle of Wight; black kite at Whitburn, Tyneside; yellow-browed bunting at Hoy, Orkney. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

PETER BROWN



A robin's nest — their eggs are white suffused with red

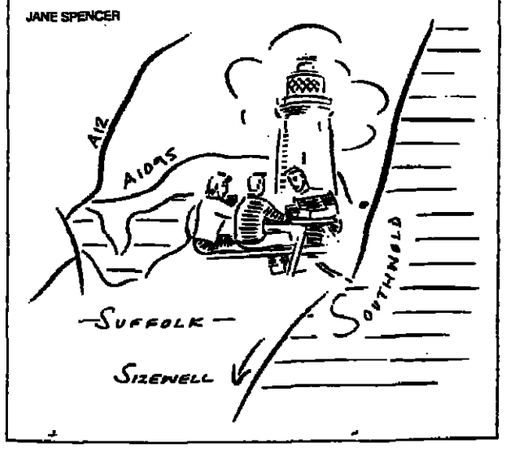
ON THE SPOT

Rural recommendation

The Place: St James' Green, Southwold
The view: on the green sit two guns and a tall white mast. Behind them is a lighthouse and ahead is the North Sea.
Aficionados: walkers wrapped up warmly.
Best time to visit: on a sunny day.
Historical interest: this was the original site of the coastguard station.
OS Ref: 509/763 on sheet 156
How to get there: follow signs from the A12 to Southwold and head for the green.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



'It's not the rural idyll people think'

Sub-post offices are hard work, and they're getting harder, reports **Fred Redwood**



City post offices, left, have crime problems while rural post offices, like those run by Margaret McGoey, right, struggle to find staff

DENZIL MONEELANCE



They are the pretend shops from our nursery school days, when stamps, string and sealing wax changed hands for chocolate money. They are still seen as ideal early-retirement ventures — midweek half-day, Sundays free and the rest of the time spent jollying along Mrs Maggs with her bad back — but all is not well in the Miss Marple-ish world of the rural sub-post office.

In an effort to stem the tide of closures, 200 sub-post offices closed last year, the Government has announced a 50 per cent rate relief for any post office with a rateable value of £5,000 or less and serving a community of fewer than 3,000. Nevertheless, important and famous sub-post offices, such as Lover in Wiltshire, through which thousands of Valentines pass through for the novelty of the postmark, are going.

The village of East Ilsley on the Berkshire Downs, in the heart of horseracing country, is another example. There is a duck pond on the green, an oak-panelled pub and the post office and general store, run by Margaret McGoey.

Everywhere there are shelves of items which Mrs McGoey knows people will run out of. Ant killer is next to shoelaces, salt, bleach, Pot Noodles, shoe polish and wrapping paper. For the sub post-office fantasist, the shop has everything. But Mrs McGoey draws a very different picture: "I enjoy my life here," she says, "but it's nothing like the lazy existence people think. We sell newspapers, so my day starts at 5.30am and I work until 5pm. Finding staff in the country can be a real problem. I'm lucky to have a good assistant at the moment, but I have had staff who have lasted two days. They just couldn't take it. It can be monotonous working in a country shop and some customers can be very trying. You have to learn to put the awkward ones to the back of your mind." Yet despite this, Mrs McGoey would still recommend the job. "I do get satisfaction from being at the centre of village life. It's a good life but it's hard work."

Not that it is any easier running a suburban sub-post office — but it is different. Jay Bees convenience store and post office in King's Furlong, Hampshire, is owned and run by Jim Buttress, his son Mark and eight staff and it's a little gold mine.

But the store has become a target for gangs of local youths after Mark removed one of them from the shop for being drunk and abusive. They have glued the security shutters together and set the shop alight. The fire brigade arrived just in time to prevent serious damage.

There are two raids and two burglaries on post offices every day. A spokesman for the National Federation of Sub Post Masters says: "Eight million pounds a year is now invested in security. The latest initiative is to place posters in 17,000 post offices, drawing attention to alarms and closed-circuit television and deterring robbers. We take security very seriously."

It's all a long way from that childhood idea of playing shop...

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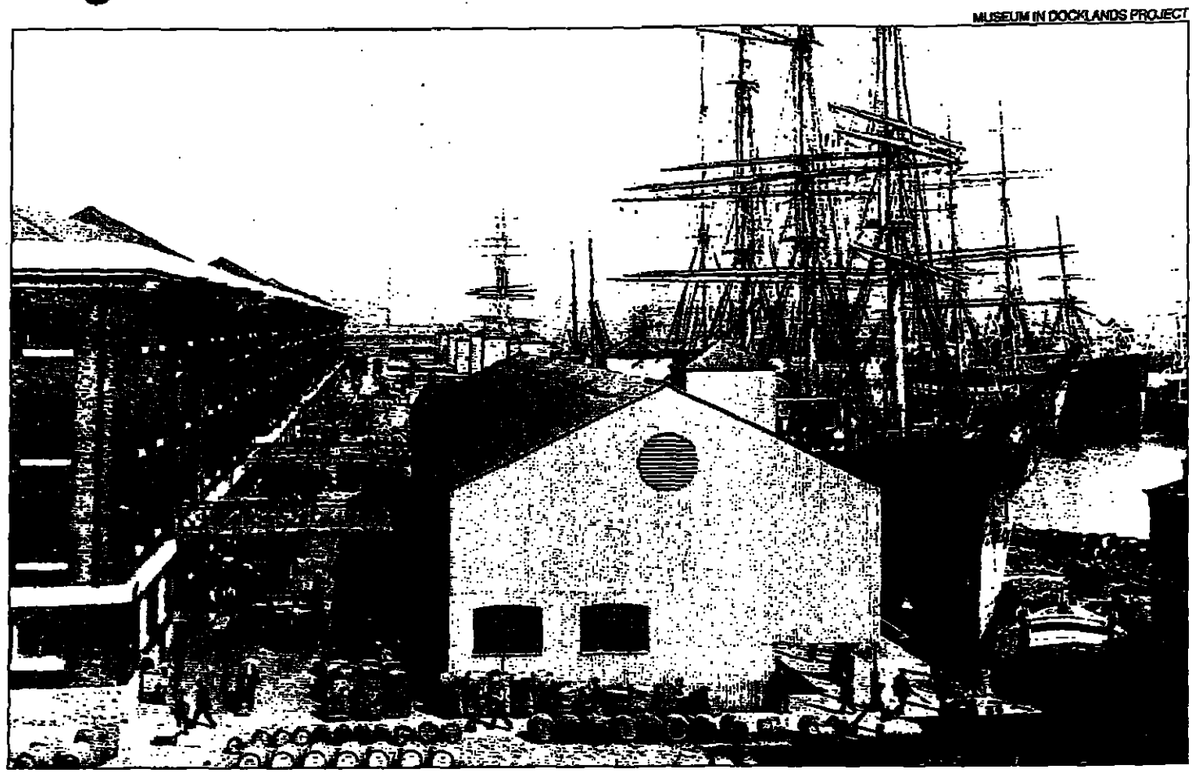
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Find your berth in the new east

With the demise of the London Docklands authority, Rachel Kelly ponders the future of an area full of promise



MUSEUM IN DOCKLANDS PROJECT

Should you buy a property in Docklands? The talk among the boys in red braces in East London is that the Dome and Millennium Village will generate flurries of interest and new developments.

But the cynical are nervous about the potential traffic and building chaos engendered by the Millennial tourists. They are worried, too, about who is now overseeing the area in the wake of the winding up of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), the Government quango which has been in charge of the area's development since 1981.

The LDDC was dissolved in March. Its track record, boosted by government subsidies, is nonetheless impressive: 24,000 new homes, 28 new schools and colleges and five new health centres. More than 80,000 people now live in the area, up from 39,400 in 1981, and the number of workers has risen from 27,200 to 85,000. Now the LDDC has handed over responsibility to Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets councils.

The LDDC's demise leaves ambitious schemes unfinished. There is the proposed £35-million flyover across the A13-A406 junction that was designed to reduce congestion in the Royal Docks Road area. Another project is the 2,000-metre Olympic-standard rowing course and regatta centre, located on the Royal Albert Dock, which is still being built.

Newham councillors are quick to reassure buyers. Conor McAuley, the council's deputy leader, says: "We are determined to see through the regeneration of the area in line with our vision for the borough."

Dockers, as Docklands fans are known, say the Government's plan to hand wide planning powers to London's mayor will prove positive for Docklands. Under the proposals, the mayor will be responsible for London's spatial development strategy and will have the power to intervene in planning applications.

David Rose, from the Royal Town Planning Institute, says: "A mayor is more likely to have the political will to secure the regeneration that London needs, to break through the inertia that is slowing development at the moment."

Major transport improvements are already in place. These include the Docklands Light Railway, opened in 1987, which now links the area with the inner city. A new extension of the link to Lewisham will open in January. And the Jubilee Line extension from Waterloo to Canary Wharf will mean that the West End is less than 20 minutes away.

A total of 55 miles of improved and new roads, including the Limehouse Link tunnel, have also been built since 1981. In addition, the new London City Airport now flies to 20 national and European destinations and carries more than a million passengers annually.

An increasing number of first-time buyers are moving to Docklands and spending in the £60,000 to £150,000 range, says Rod Taylor, of agents FPDsavills. He directs the first-time buyer looking to spend less than £100,000 to Rotherhithe or Surrey Quay developments, where a one-bedroom flat costs about £85,000. "Anything cheaper is likely to be a former council property in Wapping or East Smithfield," he says.

Those seeking property ranging from £110,000 to £150,000 might consider the BoardWalk development, east of West India Docks. "The BoardWalk lies at the heart of Docklands, within walking distance of Canary Wharf and across the river from the Millennium Dome," says Camilla Lindsay of Knight Frank. The flats are specifically targeted at investors and city workers moving to the area.

Urban Villages' Canary Riverside residential development, located at Canary Wharf, is the latest "urban village" under construction. The first phase of 322 one to four-bedroom flats was launched last month. But the flats will cost from £198,000 to £2,137,500.

Telford's Yard, on the Highway, Wapping, is a development of warehouses and wharfs converted into two and three bedroom flats around a central courtyard. They are for sale from £215,000 through agents Alex Neil.

The £250-million Millennium Village is a significant exception, with 250 of its 1,400 houses to be "social units". One-bedroom flats will start at £90,000.

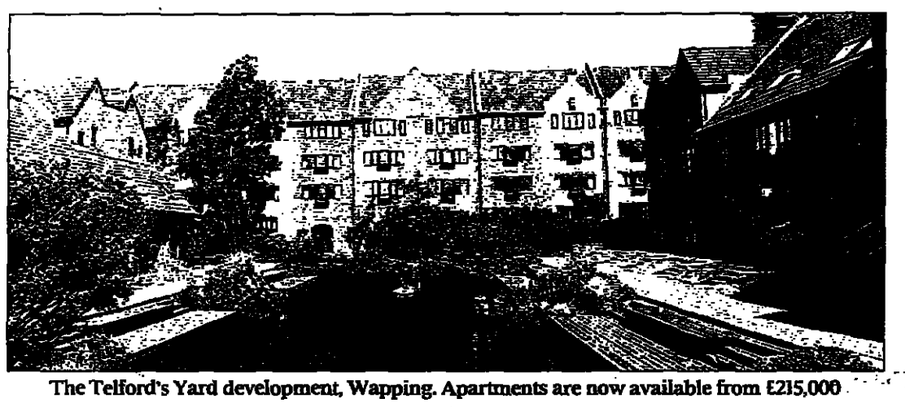
Hunt Thompson is the design team which won a competition set up by John Prescott to develop a new sustainable way of living. Joined by Swedish architect Ralph Erskine, its design should preserve the countryside and conserve the energy wasted in commuting into London, while appealing to people who would otherwise live in the suburbs.

Bernard Hunt, from the architects, says: "The Greenwich Millennium Village project aims to create a town atmosphere, with places to work, shop, eat and socialise."

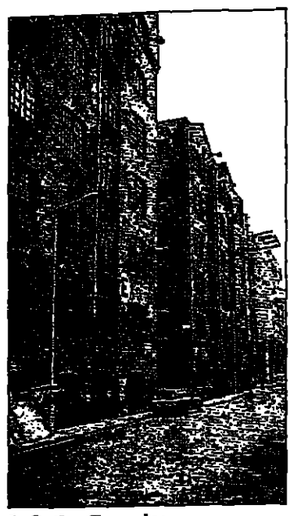
His ideas include car pools and electric transit systems to discourage residents from using their cars. The community will have its own website, allowing residents to contact each other through the Internet.

Construction of these "intelligent" homes starts in October and the first few should be ready to live in by the middle of next year.

● *Additional research by Alice Hardy*



The Telford's Yard development, Wapping. Apartments are now available from £215,000



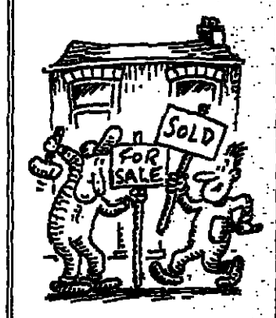
Left, the Georgian warehouses in Pennington Street, on the northern quayside in Wapping in 1896, and the present-day development on the same street, above, showing Breezers Court which houses a selection of one and two-bedroom flats from £110,000, next door to *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Diary of a householder

MONDAY
Hit by bombshell. Having moved the family to London four months ago to look for a flat to buy, our rented accommodation is under threat. The owner, an old friend, wants to sell. We have two months to choose an area, find a flat, exchange and complete, and move furniture and baby in.

TUESDAY
The race to buy is being run against the prospective buyers of our rented flat. To give us more time, the owner has agreed that we may move out up to two months after exchange of contracts. The speed of the estate agents in Notting Hill Gate in selling our flat is alarming. It is two days since they were instructed, and already six people have been to see it. The two-bedroom flat, above a bookmaker on Westbourne Grove in W2, was bought for £135,000 in 1991. It is on the market for £275,000.

WEDNESDAY
It is clear from the oohs and aahs of prospective buyers



that someone will make an offer soon. We have to start looking for a place fast. Maybe we should rent again..

THURSDAY
Make enquiries in Earlsfield, London SW18, about renting. Three agents have no two-bedroom properties; one has a former council flat for £250 per week.

FRIDAY
A couple put an offer on the Notting Hill Gate flat: the asking price plus £5,000.

SATURDAY
Make appointments to view two flats to buy in Earlsfield. We see a poky flat for £95,500 with a duvet-sized garden. The second flat is so ugly, my husband refuses to go in.

EMMA MAHONY

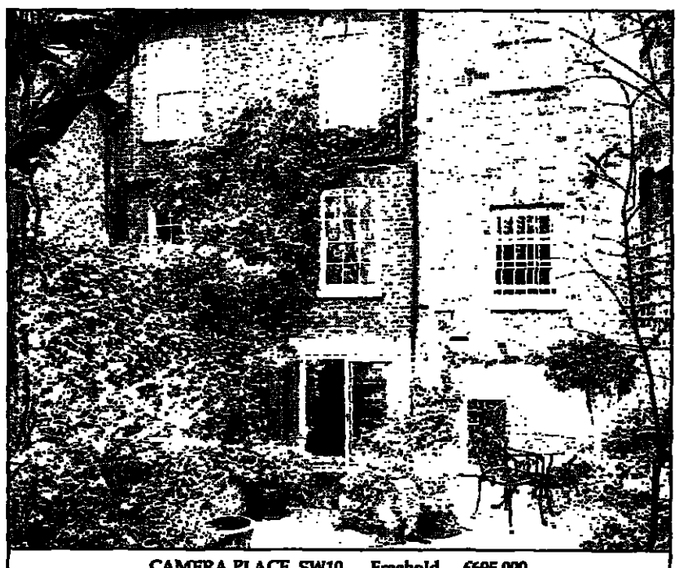
● *Next week: looking in Earlsfield.*

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

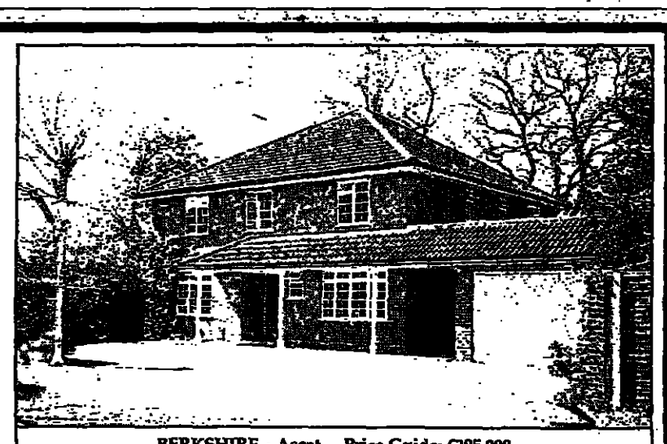
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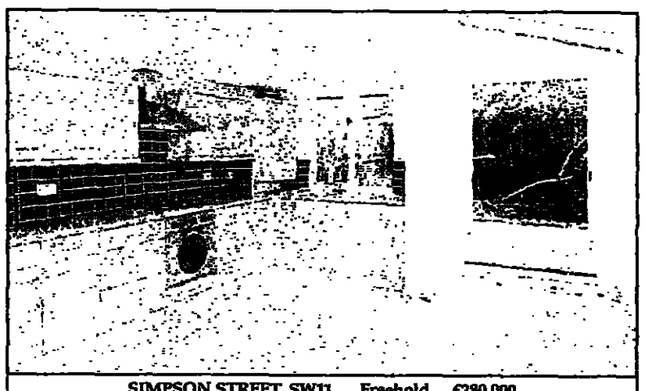
HERTFORDSHIRE – Rickmansworth Price Guide: £625,000
With good communications to London, a house in fine decorative order, with an indoor swimming pool and a panelled billiards room. 3 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 2 reception rooms, study, cloakroom, utility room, double garage and garden.
HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106 Joint Sole Agent PETER ROBSON & CO 01923 282244



CAMERA PLACE, SW10. Freehold £695,000
In a most attractive and popular part of Chelsea, a house refurbished to a high standard with a south-facing garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom and utility area.
CHELSEA OFFICE: 0171 352 1484



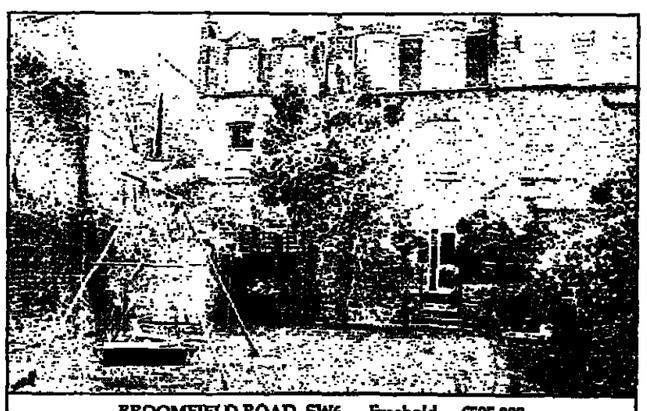
BERKSHIRE – Ascot Price Guide: £395,000
One mile from Ascot Race Course and High Street, a well presented family house with an attractive garden. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, breakfast room, cloakroom, utility room, garage and gardens.
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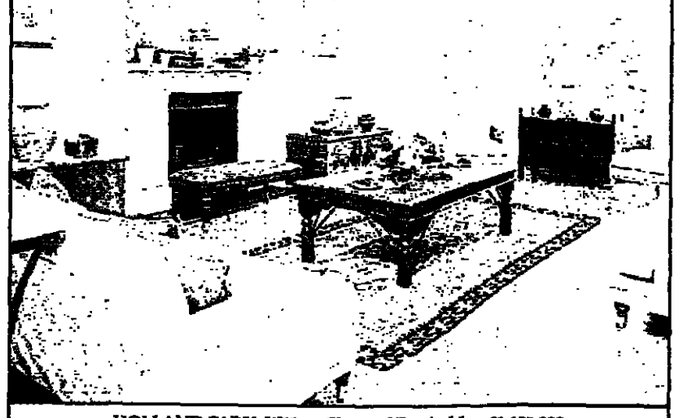
SIMPSON STREET, SW11. Freehold £280,000
In a popular street in Battersea and retaining most of the original features, a Victorian house which has been completely modernised and redecorated. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, double reception room, kitchen/dining room and garden.
BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174



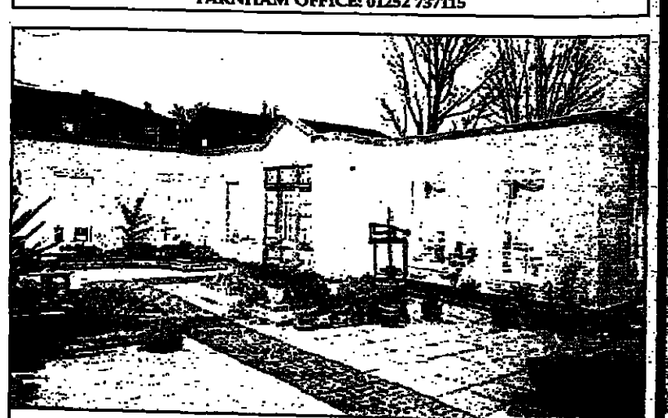
SURREY – Farnham Price Guide £310,000
On the outskirts of Crondall and dating back to the 17th century, a charming cottage with delightful gardens. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, garage, carport and courtyard.
FARNHAM OFFICE: 01252 737115



BROOMFIELD ROAD, SW6. Freehold £595,000
Close to Parson's Green, a beautifully presented house appointed to a high standard with a superb 104ft garden. 3/4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1/2 reception rooms, kitchen, cellar and conservatory.
FULHAM OFFICE: 0171 731 4223



HOLLAND PARK, W11. Share of Freehold £1,600,000
A spectacular maisonette, in excellent decorative order, on the first and second floor. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen and roof terrace. Approx 292 sq m (3,143 sq ft).
Also a third floor flat with 3/4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 1/2 reception rooms at £525,000.
KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705 Joint Sole Agent RUSSELL SIMPSON 0171 225 0277



WANDLE ROAD, SW17. Freehold £650,000
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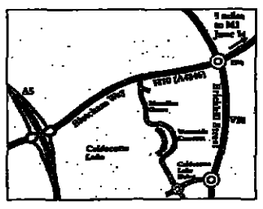
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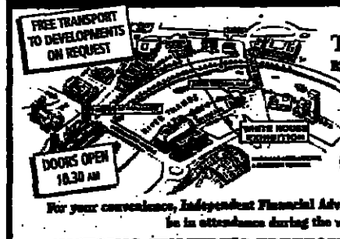


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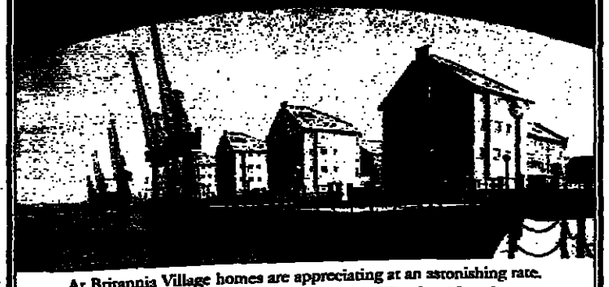
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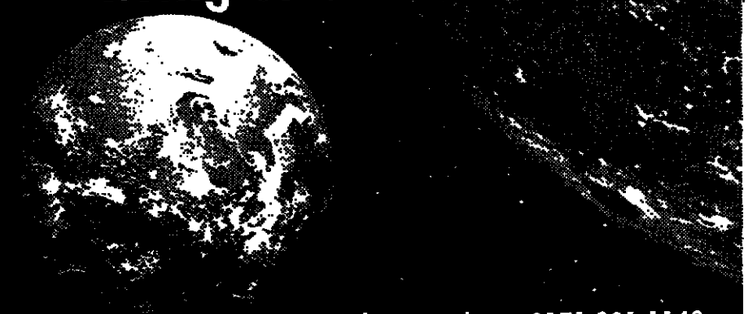
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LAVENDER DOCK

From the grand old manor torn

Sir Archibald Hamilton, head of the Tory 1922 Committee, is selling his family's Surrey estate, reports **Ronald Payne**

DES JENSON



Snowdenham House on Sir Archibald Hamilton's Surrey estate that includes a lake, water gardens and walled gardens. After spending most of his political life there, he is now selling it for more than £4.25 million

HOUSE OF THE **WEEK**

Here's a thing to wonder at. Sir Archibald Hamilton, sometimes described as the last Tory grandee, has put up for sale Snowdenham House, the estate in Surrey where he has lived for most of his political life. The asking price for the whole spread is more than £4.25 million.

Not that he has given up politics or intends to abandon the wicked life of Westminster — he will go on being the amiable but firm chairman of the 1922 Committee, the group of influential backbenchers that guards the guttering flame of the Tory soul.

Archie, as everybody calls him, is still busy with ideas for fashioning new conservatism "with a capital K", as he dryly put it. The truth is that he finds himself in what sociologists might call the "landowner poverty trap". Pleasant indeed is the country life in a classic Georgian house, with its nine bedrooms and five bathrooms, on an estate concealed in woods and farmland of more than 340 acres, within easy reach of the capital.

The big house itself, with a lake, water gardens and walled gardens, is the kind of ideal retreat more commonly found in Yorkshire or Somerset than in the suburban green belt of Surrey.

The living may be easy, but a family — his elegant wife, Anne, and three daughters — have to be supported. Roofs need repairing, rooms must be heated, gardens have to be tended to and taxes must be paid. All that needs serious money. To live in full 18th-century style you need to be, not just rich, but mega-rich. Can the English still afford to be country gentlemen? It may come as a surprise to Sir Archie's political enemies, who nag for more information about his directorships, that he needs to raise some money.

As we drove around the estate in his muddied BMW with scratches on the side (a neo-Tory would have flaunted a flashier 4x4 number) he quietly philosophised about his life and times after I had asked, "What brought a nice guy like you into politics?" "Well, er, the family's always been political and we talked politics at home. I just don't know what I'd have done otherwise. It was not that they expected it of me. Quite fortuitously, the timing of my going into politics coincided with all the Thatcher and Major years, one of the most exciting periods," he says.

He thinks that the real message from his father, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, was that as the younger son he was not going to inherit anything, therefore he should go out and make some money. "I totally failed to do that. Of course, I was very lucky eventually to get this place." His elder brother inherited it from a cousin. Then the family arranged to pass Snowdenham to Sir Archie. "That's how I ended up with it."

Snowdenham is not entirely the ancestral home. It came by way of an adventurous Jewish financier, Percy Ricardo, who brought a welcome injection of capital and foreign blood into the Scottish Hamilton family when his granddaughter married the Hamilton's son and heir before the Great War.

Sir Archie and his wife have lived there only since 1988. He was born, suitably for a future officer in the Brigade in Bagshot, within artillery range of the Guards depot. "I have no complaints," says Archie. "It's done me very well. But I'd have preferred not to be selling off inherited assets — you can't have everything in life, though."

As our rural ride continued, Archie paused to point out another farm. "That used to be ours — sold off. All part of the process of selling bits off just to survive. Very unsatisfactory way of living life, really. One always feels it would be nice to inherit something and then to have more at the end than you had when you started." It's not that Sir Archie is a poor man. He is quite ready to declare that "a few directorships have made life easier and helped to plan the cash flow".

"Let me introduce Denis and Margaret," he says, as we promenade across a lawn tended by the gardener, a German PoW septuagenarian who stayed on here after the war. Before us stand two budding magnolia stellata, named in honour of the Thatchers who planted them on a visit last Christmas. They remain friendly even though he used to refer to her as the "blessed Margaret", for Archie served as her PPS.

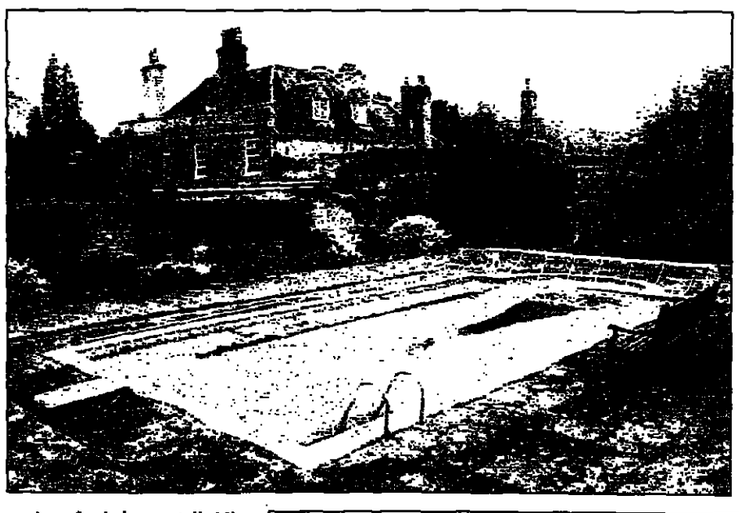
I doubt whether the buyer of Snowdenham will inherit the array of formal photographs suitably displayed in the guest lavatory at the entrance to the house where Georgian architecture meets Victorian. There the visitor can examine the pictorial political biography of Sir Archie. In some, he is ranged with the Whips, his 6ft 6in frame stooping slightly in apology for being so tall. His time at the ministry of defence is recalled in a picture of military magnificos in *grande tenue*.

We end up talking at the kitchen table. "For primitive tribes, life centred around the kitchen — and here we are," remarked the master of Snowdenham. "Honestly, I don't know where we'll go to live. Of course, we have somewhere in London, but I like the country life where you can breathe fresh air — somewhere without telegraph poles, not a light to be seen at night. That's not easy to find. Anywhere near London would be very expensive."

● *The Snowdenham Estate, Bramley, near Guildford in Surrey, is being offered as a whole or in two lots by FPD Savills, 1 Berkeley Street, London W1. (0171-499 8644)*

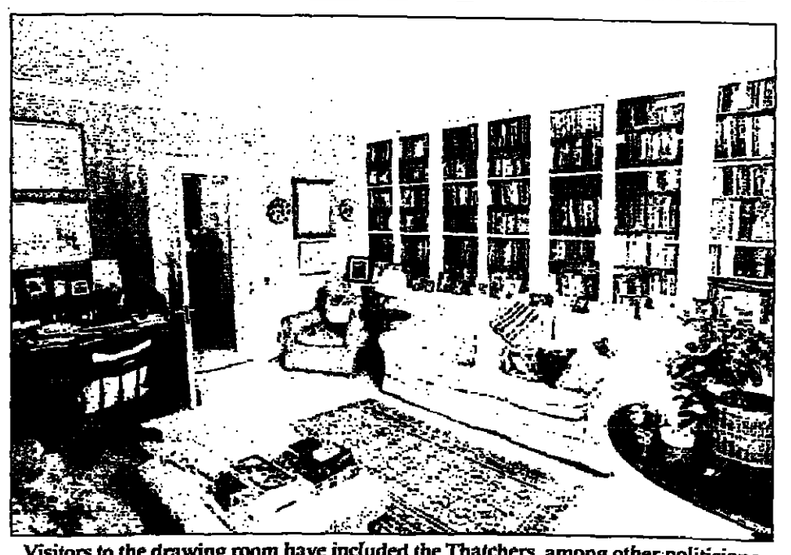


Sir Archie and his wife, Anne, in their sitting room. Below left, the swimming pool set in the 340-acre estate





Portrait of a previous Lord Hamilton: the house was the home of a cousin, then his brother, before Lord Archie



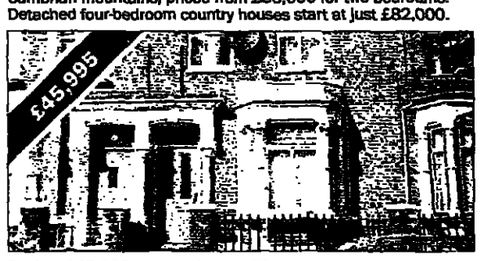
Visitors to the drawing room have included the Thatchers, among other politicians

HOME SWAP

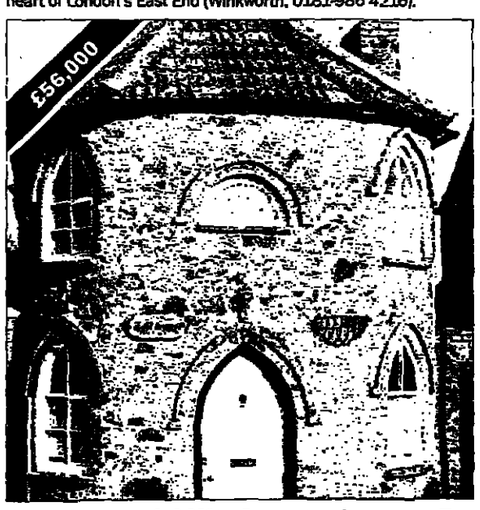
FOUR miles from the City, Hackney has some of the best value property in central London, despite price gains of up to 25 per cent last year. Prices slip in Clapton, where you can buy a three-bedroom Victorian terraced house for around £100,000. A one-bedroom garden flat in a converted period house, close to the Hackney Marshes, starts at £45,000; two bedrooms from £75,000, through estate agent Winkworths.

Young buyers who live and work in London are looking to buy their first home in Somerset for weekends and holidays, according to West Country estate agent Greenslade Taylor Hunt. Prices are lowest in small towns like Ilminster, where you can buy a two-bedroom terraced cottage for £40,000. In the countryside, stone-built cottages cost from £50,000 to £70,000.

West Wales has some of the cheapest housing in Britain. Estate agent Morgan Davies in Lampeter has a clutch of restored stone and slate country cottages near the Ceredigion coast and the Cambrian mountains, priced from £35,000 for two bedrooms. Detached four-bedroom country houses start at just £82,000.



For just £45,995, you can buy an 85-year lease on a one-bedroom garden flat in this four-storey Victorian terraced house in Dunlace Road, Hackney, close to the Lower Clapton Road, in the heart of London's East End (Winkworth, 0181-986 4216).



Spend a little more (£56,000) in Somerset, and you can buy The Toll House, a Grade II listed one-bedroom village house in the centre of Nether Stowey, at the foot of the Quantock Hills (Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01278 425555).



For even less (£35,000), you can afford this restored two-bedroom character cottage, with a garden backing on to open fields, in Tregaron, on the edge of the Cambrian mountains, west Wales (Morgan & Davies, 01570 423623)

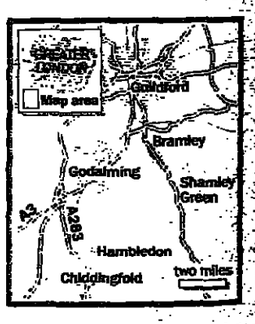
CHERYL TAYLOR

MARKET **COMMENT**

THE VILLAGES around Guildford are highly desirable commuter territory.

Unsurprisingly, the combination of roughly four trains an hour making the 40-minute journey from Guildford to Waterloo, driving time of less than an hour up the A3 into London outside peak periods and rolling green countryside has proved a powerful magnet to well-heeled metropolitan buyers.

Snowdenham House is a real rarity in this part of the country. Not only does it have the location, the land, the lakes and the looks, but it is a fine Georgian house — and Georgian houses in this part of Surrey, according to Tommy de Mallet Morgan of FDP Savills' Guildford office, command "an enormous premium over other period homes. "I'd say 25 per cent and the rest," he said.



This, he explains, is a reflection of Surrey's woodedness and the preponderance of timber-framed rather than brick houses. Georgian houses are easier to come by in Hampshire, for example, where most ground was cleared for agriculture.

Mr de Mallet Morgan estimates that one such house a year comes to the market in the area, though Georgian cottages and semi-detached village houses crop up from time to time.

As a consequence, buyers may be looking for two or three years, maybe getting lucky in the end, maybe shifting their focus to another part of the country, or maybe compromising in this locality.

EXPECT to pay £200,000 to £300,000 for a three-bedroom Victorian semi, £300,000 to £400,000 for a cottage, £500,000 to £650,000 for a family house (more if it's near a golf course or has other special features), and £1 million-plus for a six to eight-bedroom house with a few acres of land and a cottage.

It's not a bad time to buy, if your expectations are realistic. Mr de Mallet Morgan reports "the most stock we've had for ten years, and prices being reduced on many houses, though not on the best ones". But he says that many buyers are being overly choosey and uncompromising: getting away from traffic noise and finding an uninterrupted outlook in the heart of the Home Counties are tall orders.

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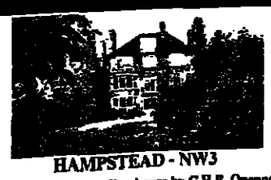
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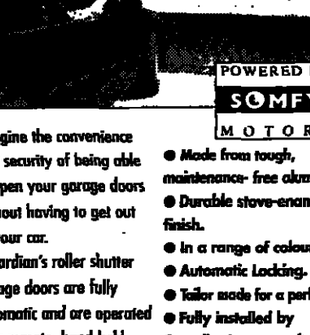
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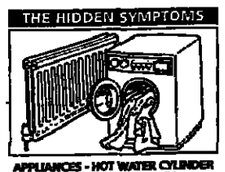
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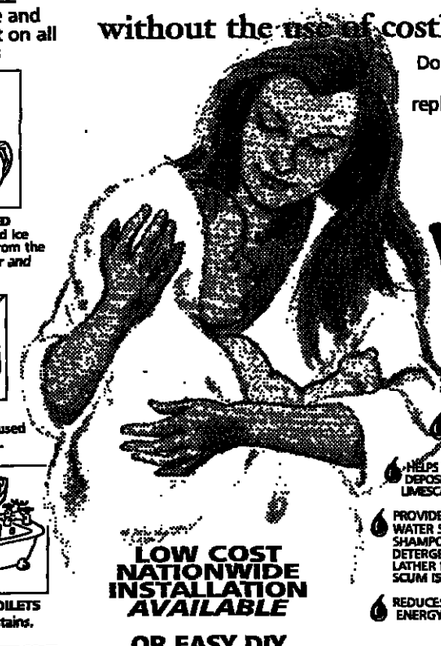
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هكذا من الأصل

Purple here, purple there ...

Stephen Anderton creates a vibrant border



FINDLAY KEMBER

Stephen Anderton on his purple terrace. The tulips are 'Queen of the Night', 'Ballade' and 'Negrita' and they have been planted in distinct groups

This spring I have been playing with a purple *theme* in a pair of east-facing borders below the terrace at the back of my house. Last year, in a cottage garden, I saw an excellent planting of 'Bowles Mauve' wallflowers and a random mixture of tulips in purple, mauve and pink. I thought I would have a go at a similar scheme.

My borders are young and lack the shrubby substance which would allow such a cottagey muddle of colour. So I have kept the tulips in more or less distinct groups, planted through perennials which will rise later, and alongside plants which are in colour now.

My bulbs were ordered in tens and twenties from the bulb merchants De Jager, of Marden, Kent (*the famous* firm of Wallace and Barr as was), so that I could rely on being able to plant my chosen purples, mauves and plums, mostly single colours, but with a few bicolours mixed in, in November. I also picked up more bulbs cheaply in the market, blindly taking a risk on colours.

And now, at the end of April and early May, the show is under way. To keep some unity in the two borders (they flank central steps down to the lawn) I doubled up on numbers of some varieties and planted a group in each border. First to bloom were clumps of 'Negrita', a delicious 18in plum-purple which shot just before Easter, but kept its nose-cones sensibly closed *during the heavy rains and* opened afterwards.

Last year a single plant of the tall red orache (*Atriplex hortensis* var. *rubra*) appeared in the border, and this year there are dusky red seedlings dotted all over the beds. With the new foliage of the *hybrid musk rose* 'Moonlight', they tie in pleasingly with the winey theme of the tulips.

Down the other end, 'Negrita' is set against the smokey blue of the loose-growing rosemary, 'Sissinghurst' and the softer, leafier maroon of the dead nettle *Lamium orvala*. Dark tulips like these look distinctly Conran against such Laura Ashley leafiness.

Next to bloom has been the tulip 'Ballade', a lily-flowered type in pinkish-plum with a white edge. It has pale greeny-grey leaves nicely matching a nearby mound of grey santolina. The flowers are just the same pale plum colour as the opening buds of an adjacent peony, *cambessedesii*, flowering for the first time from seed after only three years. Next to appear is 'Queen of Night', a taller variety, with black-purple petals.

Putting spring purples into the border has had an unexpected benefit. There are two small bushes of *Pittosporum* 'Tom Thumb', planted in the garden by previous owners *but I cannot say I like them.* Their foliage is greenish purple in summer, and black-purple in winter and spring. In a border bare of other *spring colour they look metal*lic, dead and poison-dwarfish. But 'Negrita' has given them the lift they needed, something to relate to at last.

Putting in the weight of flower colour which tulips provide can pull together early purple foliages of other herbaceous plants to make a substantial effect. Clumps of *Heuchera* 'Rachel' and the *Euphorbia cyparissias* 'Fens Ruby' are all lifted by their colour.

And other early flowers in pink and mauve gain by *juxtaposition. There is a group* of 'Black Swan' tulips here (a black-maroon version of La Dietrich), which is looking striking in bud with *Polemonium* 'Lambrook Mauve' and promises to open and shine right on cue with the pink spikes and lush foliage of *Persicaria bistorta 'Superba'*.

At the shadier end of the borders is a clump of tulip 'Atlantis' which with 'Arabian Mystery' looks set to be one of *my last to flower. It has* outrageous violet purple petals with a broad white edge, giving a rather military, striped effect. The way the green stem suddenly changes to violet is a marvel.

Some tulips work the trick the other way round; 'Douglas *Bader' has stems as dark and* bloomy as a black grape, and suddenly they give way to a bowl of rich waxy pink petals.

To keep 'Atlantis' company is *Hosta montana* 'Aureomarginata', whose stripes are yellow rather than white. Maybe when 'Atlantis' is open *I will wish that it was next to a* hosta with white variegations such as 'Thomas Hogg'.

By contrast, a clump of the silvery grey-blue of the blue wheatgrass *Elymus hispidus* is especially successful with these purple tulips. I shall fish out a few seedlings from the *bed this month, and plant a* group of them to work with the tulips next year.



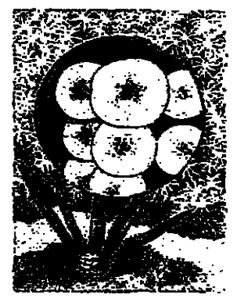
The tulip 'Ballade'



- Watch for outbreaks of aphids on new shoots or roses. If natural *predators do not wipe* them out, spray.
- Trim straggly winter-flowering heathers such as *Erica carnea* after the flowers have faded.
- Liquid feed potted lilies and agapanthus with tomato food. Lower the *lawnmower blades to* summer height.

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q Two years ago an old lilac developed toadstools of honey fungus around the base and my husband got rid of them by pouring creosote on them. Last autumn a nearby witch-hazel died, the leaves shrivelling on the plant. I assume this, too, was honey fungus. How do I treat the soil if it is honey fungus? No more toadstools have appeared, and *the creosote certainly did* kill them. — Mrs A Tredgold, Lancaster.



A Lilac is very tough and takes some killing. Creosote might burn off toadstools and kill off some of the fungus underground, but it is not a safe substance around plants. Your lilac is tough enough to withstand honey fungus for the time being at least. Witch-hazel *is a classic quick victim* of honey fungus which often kills things, with apparently healthy leaves *suddenly* withering mid-season. Plants can die from honey fungus without a toadstool being seen: it is the infection underground and in the trunk that kills.

Dig out the witch-hazel and other dead plants or stumps and burn them. Take the lilac outto remove the source of infection. Treat the soil and remaining nearby shrubs with Armillotox but it cannot be guaranteed to clean up the area entirely.

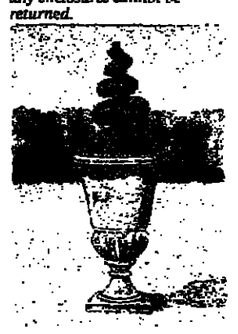
Q Where can I get *Rosa banksia*, which I saw flowering profusely and *early in the Dordogne?* — Mrs J A Lloyd, Winchester, Hants.

A This is not the hardiest of roses, but in a warm, sheltered position it is vigorous and performs well to 20ft. The wild form is creamy-white, but in cul*tivation there is the double* white, the single yellow and the double yellow. The latter is commonest because it is hardier. All forms take a few years to settle down to flowering and the flowers are produced from older wood. They need light prun*ing, enough to encourage* new wood from the bottom every few years. It is sold by most specialist rose growers, or can be bought by mail order from Peter Beales Roses, London Road, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1AY (01953 454707).

Q Could you suggest a 6ft evergreen tree to grow in a 12ft rectangle of grass in an otherwise paved garden. Something hardy and spring or summer flowering. — Mrs E. Wildman, Cardiff.

A The small size and clear trunk demands either an evergreen shrub or a clipped tree. *Osmanthus delavayi* or *burkwoodii* are shrubs that have white flowers and could be grown as clipped domes on a trunk, but they would be slow to create. *Phillyrea decora* has laurel-like leaves and large perfumed flowers. Or how about a dome of golden female holly or golden-leafed yew?

● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. We regret that any enclosures cannot be returned.*



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Andrew de Candole outside Groombridge Place, which he has restored. "I am not one of those people who can just sit and read the newspaper"



An atmospheric tunnel of woven hazel at the entrance to the fantasy village

Walking in wonderland

ME AND MY GARDEN: ANDREW DE CANDOLE

Jane Owen enters an enchanted green world in Kent's Goombridge Place

When a rich, dashing City bloke bursts into the countryside and starts changing things on an old estate, holding rock concerts and opening the garden to the public regularly, there is, inevitably, criticism.

In 1992 Andrew de Candole took over Groombridge Place in Kent, the 17th-century house with topiary gardens which made the stately setting for *The Draughtsman's Contract* and inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who held seances at the house, to write *Valley of Fear*. Another visitor, Vita Sackville-West, used Groombridge as the setting for her novel *The Heir*.

Not content with the splendid historic garden that surrounds the house, Mr de Candole brought in the surrealist garden-maker Ivan Hicks to play with 50 of the 200 acres that make up the estate.

Working closely together, Mr de Candole and Mr Hicks have made what they call an Enchanted Forest. "Ivan has a rare talent. We want gardening to be made attractive to younger people so the idea of the Enchanted Forest is that you can walk into a fairytale," says Mr de Candole.

It is a landscape of pools, tree fern valleys, earthworks, mystic mazes, grottoes and, most bizarre of all, a vast red Indian teepee area. The detailing is off the wall: playing cards stuck in the branches of trees; glittering ballroom spheres dangling above pools; mirrors set into tree trunks.

Most gardens have distinct soft and hard landscaping, but here the distinction is blurred. Trees have been twisted into fantastic shapes or bent into arches and dens for children; drainage pipes are arranged in such a way that they appear to be a cross-section through a tree trunk; fallen birch trees and old roof tiles take on the form of serpents and there are spiders' webs made of hazel twigs and earthworks made to look like ancient burial mounds. Much of the ornament is from objects found on the estate but some, like a fine grotto by Miles Challys at the top of a long, sheltered valley, is made of imported stone.



Indian head tree carving

Some of the design is whimsical, even twee, and, in the eyes of stern critics, "rather theme park". Maybe it is. But, in its time, the same kind of criticism was levelled at Wrest Park, which was moulded in the 18th century by many of the greats, from Capability Brown to Batty Langley and Thomas Archer. And Biddulph Grange, for all its patina of age, could easily carry the theme park label.

Mr de Candole shrugs off criticism of the garden and puts some of the brickbats down to jealousy. Certainly his life has a golden quality. De Candole senior was governor of Libya and young Andrew was brought up in Rudyard Kipling's house, Batemans, in East Sussex, which is now a National Trust property. After Marlborough he converted a modest Victorian cottage near Camden Lock, which kicked off his multi-million pound property developing empire.

He says: "In a way what I am doing here at Groombridge is what I do in property development — I restore old buildings and imagine as I walk around a property I have just bought how the space could be used and what it could be. I prefer the Conran style of design. I like design which is simple.

"In everything we do in the Enchanted Forest we try to make a real statement — like having a whole valley of tree ferns rather than just one tree fern. Last year we had 20 acres of sunflowers."

But his own affection for gardens began in the traditional surroundings of Batemans. "The garden there enchanted me when I was a child and so, when I was looking for a house, I was looking for a historic house and garden, too. Groombridge was very run down but I saw it on the Tuesday and we exchanged contracts on the Friday. It was important to me to find a good garden."

Mr de Candole is interested in design rather than hands-on gardening and, as he leans out of one of the middle-floor windows which looks towards his Enchanted Forest, he indicates a field of several acres which will be turned into a vast lake and a mount for the Millennium. "That will anchor the whole thing and make an axis for both gardens," he says.

This axis will help to link the Enchanted Forest to Groombridge's stunning formal garden. It is made up of a series of wide terraces stepping up from the moated house. Old brick walls and topiary partition off one area from the next. And the path from the house up the hill and through an ornate iron gate to the wooded hill beyond includes a nut walk underplanted with spring bulbs.

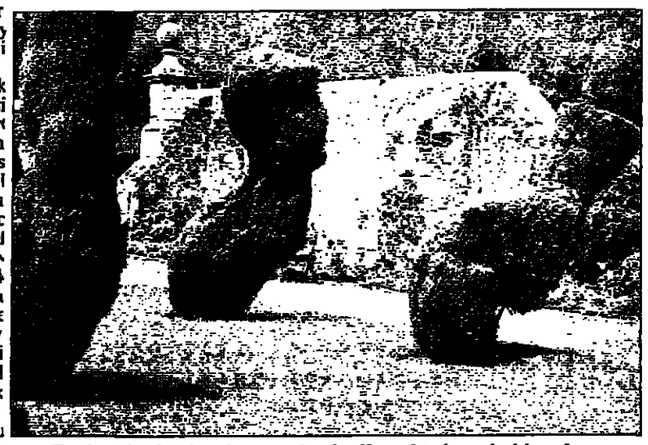
There is a white garden with a hollow apple tree still covering itself with blossom every spring and a fountain sundial, the water-spout shadow marking time, above a dark circular pool. In keeping with its gloomy depths, the pool is stocked with black carp.

Beyond a 17th-century bowling alley is the "drunken garden", so called because the topiary is cut into weird and wobbly shapes. In the oriental garden cut-leaf maples give bright autumn colour.

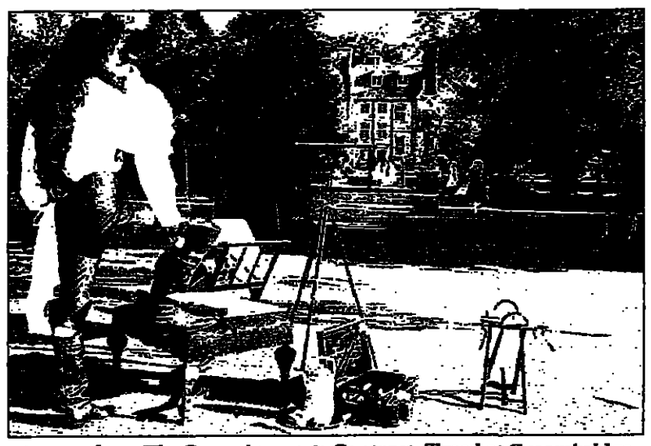
Mr de Candole says: "This is my weekend job. I live in London because that is where I work but I look forward to coming here and to working here when I retire. I am not one of those people who can just sit and read the newspaper."

Those who tire of Mr de Candole's restless energy may be relieved to hear that, after staging concerts featuring Dire Straits and Gary Glitter, even he feels that a rest is in order. "Anyone who has ever organised one of those events knows that it takes years to recover," he says.

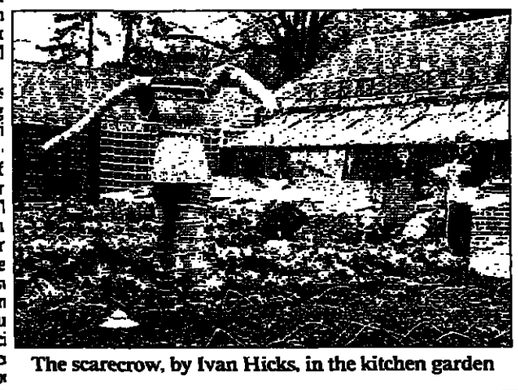
● *Groombridge Place, five miles SW of Tunbridge Wells, Kent (01892 863999) is open daily until November 1, 9am-6pm. Entrance £5.50.*



Topiary in the drunken garden is clipped to be suitably askew

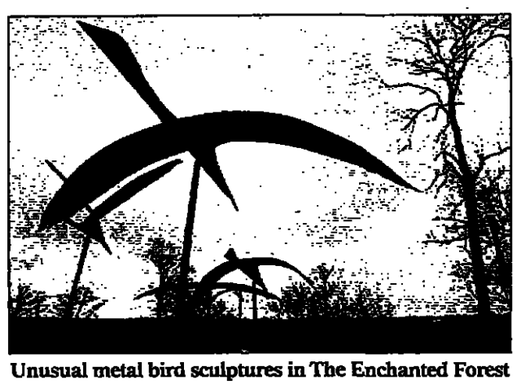


A scene from *The Draughtsman's Contract*, filmed at Groombridge



The scarecrow, by Ivan Hicks, in the kitchen garden

Some people say Groombridge looks like a theme park. Mr de Candole puts the brickbats down to jealousy



Unusual metal bird sculptures in The Enchanted Forest

Landscapes to lose yourself in

GARDENS TO VISIT

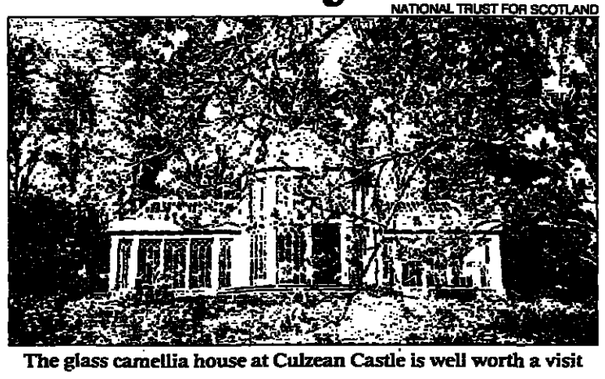
■ **Culzean Castle**
Strathclyde (01655 760274). Four miles southwest of Maybole. Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm. £3.50
Thirty acres of garden and 560 acres of landscape clinging to the cliffs make this an important property for the National Trust for Scotland. The landscape was restored by Robert Adam, who created an exquisite orangery, like a fairytale castle, as a centrepiece. Recently, this has been restored, as has an 18th-century pagoda. The Gulf Stream keeps the extremes of weather at bay, allowing palms to thrive.

There is a fine Cedar of Lebanon, a thatched summerhouse and "happy valley" — a woodland garden. A series of terraces in front of the castle have a fine mixed planting and there is a large pleasure garden dotted with fountains and a Victorian grotto in stone with a tunnel through it.

This winter, the plan is to expand the vegetable area in the eight-acre walled garden which is currently planted with perennials and a small area already under vegetables. Wild hyacinths and rhododendrons should be coming into their best this weekend.

■ **Sheringham Park**
Upper Sheringham, Norfolk (01263 823778). Four miles southwest of Sheringham. £2.50 per car, passengers included. Open dawn until dusk all year.
The landscape here is one of Humphrey Repton's best designed and also one of his best preserved, carved out of part of a 1,000-acre estate with views up and down the Norfolk coast. Some of the best views can be had from a pretty, 60ft-high gazebo, opened by the Prince of Wales in 1988, on top of a 250ft hill. There is also a temple, built in 1970 and based on one of Mr Repton's last designs, which gives a good view of the park. Bitter wind from the North Sea — "straight from Siberia" as some locals would have it — are kept from destroying the gardens by wide shelter belts of trees and by the sides of the steep valley. There is a large collection of oaks and 50 acres of rhododendrons, some of them rare, collected by Henry Upcher, patron of plant hunting expeditions and owner of the estate in the last century.

From May the hybrid rhododendrons should be looking their best. There is a pocket handkerchief tree and, probably, at 50ft high one of the biggest snowdrop trees in the country. On August bank holiday, for the first time in many years, the steam-powered saw mill will be working.



NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

The glass camellia house at Culzean Castle is well worth a visit

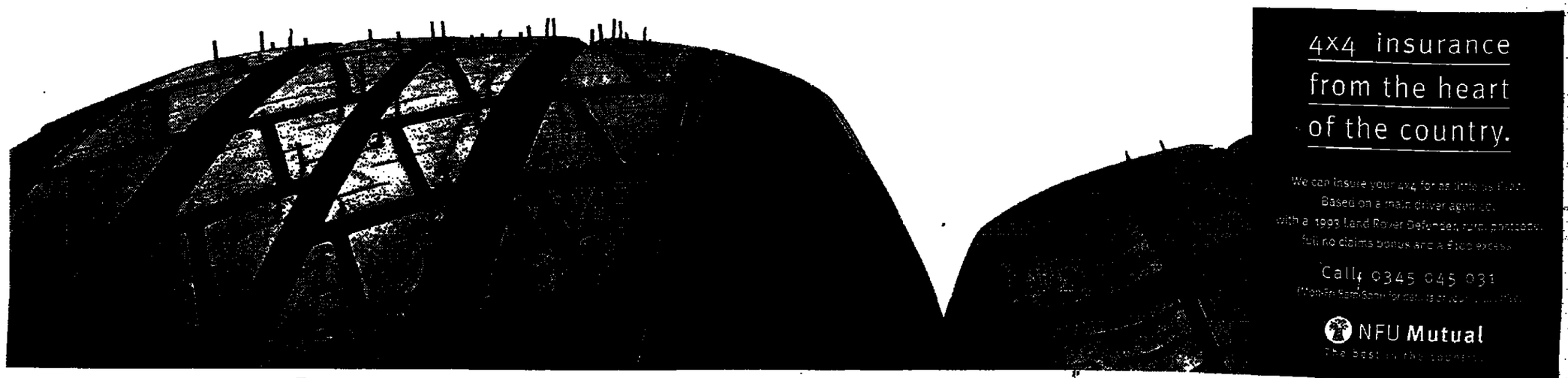
■ **Heligan**
Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall (01726 844157). Four miles south of St Austell. Open daily except Christmas Day, 10.30am-5pm. £4.50.
It is hardly surprising that this is one of the most visited gardens in England. It has an exquisite setting — 80 acres of subtropical valleys by the sea; history stretching back three centuries; unusual plants — their excellence ensured by Philip McMillan-Browse, former horticulture director of the RHS — and romance.

Restoration work on the "lost" garden began in 1991, masterminded by Tim Smit and his partner John Nelson with help from Dominic Cole of Land Use Consultants. Brambles and sycamores had almost taken over. The pineapple pit, heated by manure, last year produced fruit, the first of which was given to the Queen.

A Cornish Red rhododendron here may be one of the world's largest and there is a Japanese black pine *Pinus thunbergii*, among other rare trees.

Mr Smit ensures dazzling publicity and funds scraped together from grants and donations. This allows work on the garden to continue. He is simultaneously building the world's biggest greenhouse nearby. Watch this space.

JANE OWEN



هكذا من الأصل

'Of all the rows I had with my parents, the most terrible were about shoes — their lace-ups versus my platforms'

The art of successful negotiation

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

"Look here," I said. "This is the plan." On Saturday morning, right after Alexander's piano lesson, we were to get into the car and head for Burford, where his godmother, Katy, had borrowed her parents' house for the Bank Holiday.

Alexander thought this was a truly terrible idea. "I don't like *going to* Burford," he said. "It's a long, boring drive, and I don't like Katy, because she ate all my orange Smarties, and when we stay with her, all you two do is go to shops full of boring old china and say 'Don't touch' all the time and go to pubs and tell each other boring adult jokes and laugh loudly and it's really embarrassing for me."

All this is perfectly true, but still. "I know it's tough luck," I said, "but we'll hide your Smarties and try to find something nice for you to do too. But otherwise, if you don't like it, you'll just have to jolly well have to offer it up as a mortification." "I won't!" said Alexander. "I'm not going. You can't make me."

Crikey. A mutiny. Remembering the fate of Captains Bligh and Pugwash, I retreated into diplomacy. "Trainers." I said. "You know how you're always going on about them? Well, if you play beautifully at your piano lesson, and stop pretending that the pedals are the clutch and the accelerator, and promise not to do that awful thing with your tongue (yes, I know Charles showed you it, but that doesn't mean it's a nice thing to do), then I might consider buying you a pair."

"Trainers *before* we go to Burford," said Alexander. "And a *Beano* for the journey and a Woody from *Toy Story*. A talking one." "Done," I said. "And no church," added Alexander. "Evensong," I said. We shook hands on it.

Of all the terrible rows I had with my parents, the most terrible were always about shoes — their neat brown lace-ups versus my purple platforms. So, although I am determined (in that pompous way of grown-up children) not to repeat the frightful errors of my own upbringing, subliminally, I knew there would be trouble over the trainers.

"Here's a good pair," said Alexander and I to each other in the shoe shop. I was holding a modest little effort with a discreet logo. He was holding a black monstrosity with a sole like a Range Rover tyre fitted with lights that flash when you walk. We stared at each other's choice in horror. "Girls' trainers!" said Alexander. "Crack dealers' trainers!" said I. "Definitely *not*," we said to each other. A total breakdown of negotiations was, with some difficulty, averted by a tactful shop assistant, who produced a pair without lights but with a useful secret pocket on which we felt able to compromise without loss of face on either side. "OK," said Alexander, swaggering down the street in inch-thick soles. "What about Woody?"

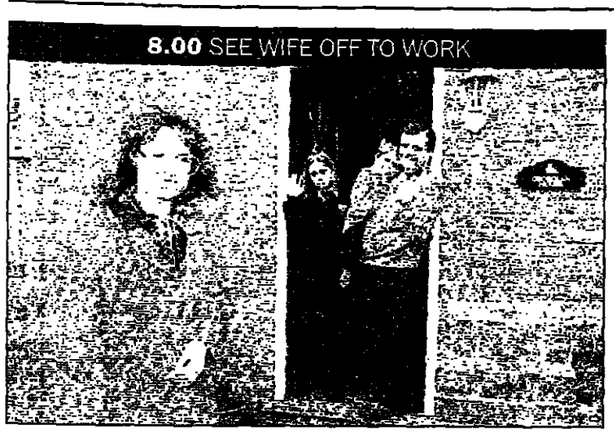
I had been to the Disney Shop the day before to collect Woody. He is a cowboy dolly with an expression of imbecile benevolence and denim legs that bend both ways at the knee. If you press a button in his midriff, he says, "Howdy, partner", "Reach for the sky", "My name's Woody", and so on. This time, I'd got it right. "*Thank* you, mummy," said Alexander, climbing into the car seat without a word of argument. He kept his finger on the button all the way up the M40. Woody's conversational repertoire is not large. In the rear view mirror, I could see Katy's expression turning to stone. (She doesn't really like children until they can talk to her about *The Critique of Pure Reason*.) "Perhaps I'll put Woody in my bag for a bit," I said, as we drew up outside the longed-for pub in Burford.

Well, now, there is nothing like a trip through the country for confounding my belief that I am just a little provincial who has been unaccountably detained for 20 years in London on her way back to the provinces. For a start, I always forget how much they don't care for children in the country. Alexander, radiant with the glow of new ownership, was being almost preternaturally good, but it made no difference to the tradespeople of Burford. They just about put up with us in the pub; we were regarded with suspicion in the antiques shop, and in the wood shop, the lady looked at us as though we had come in with a bag marked SWAG. "Look," said Woody from inside my bag, "there's an alien!" I felt inclined to agree.

And then there was the book shop, run by a scholarly, rather severe old gentleman. Not, by the look of him, a child fancier. "Darling," I said to Alexander, "I'll just grab these two things. One was a Geoffrey Trease retelling of the Robin Hood story which I thought he'd like because it hadn't too much prithee and God-wottery. Once inside, of course, there were masses of things — Louise de Vilmorin, Zélide, Robert Byron — that I couldn't possibly do without. "Sit down in this corner," I said to Alexander, with unreasonable fierceness, "and do not move a muscle. Or I'll poison Woody's waterhole." "I shall read this," said the child, with dignity, picking up a 1991 train timetable of Great Britain. And he did. For an hour.

"*That's* a habit to encourage," said the scholarly gentleman, throwing in a handsome book about steam trains for love as I wrote my cheque. "I think I might quite like Burford," said Alexander, waving a courteous goodbye. "You can come again, if you want."

ALBAN DONOHOE

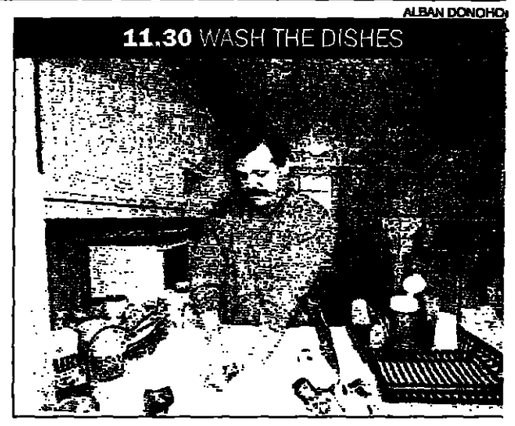


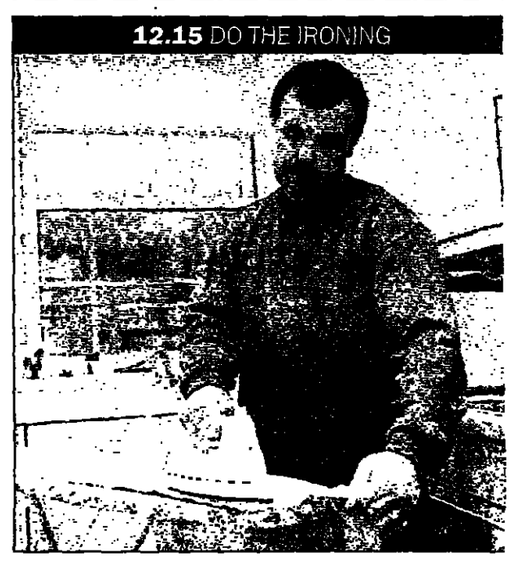


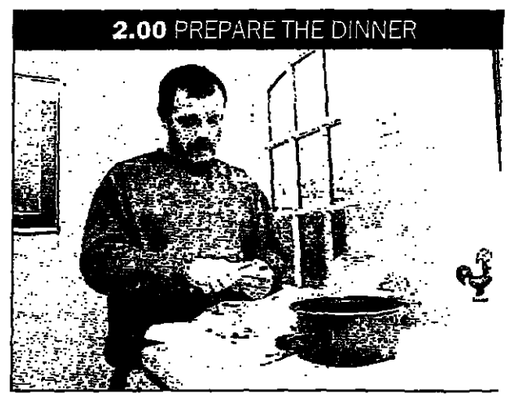
Paul Giggle, right, taking his children to school, is a househusband from Norfolk. This is a photo diary of a typical day in his life as housekeeper and childminder, while his wife, Debbie, has a full-time job

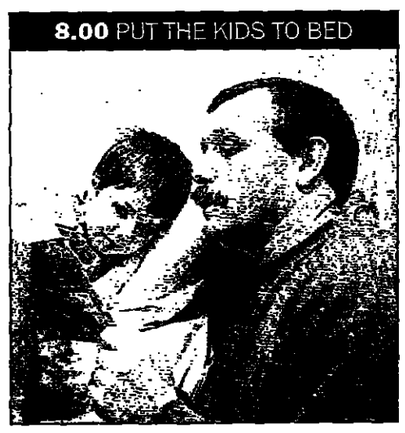


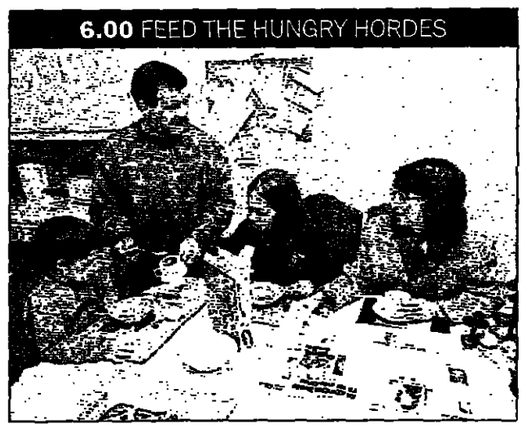














Jobs for the homeboys

It is claimed that children reared by householders score higher IQs, so why aren't we all doing it, asks **Jasper Rees**

When they fill out application forms, househusbands discover that officially, their status does not exist. "On my car insurance form I said I'm a householder," says Bob Harper, who looks after his small daughter in Bow, East London. The form came back with 'occupation: housewife'.

Paul Giggle, from Norfolk, had been in sole charge of his three children for several years when he applied for life assurance. Against occupation, he too wrote householder. "The young lady at the other end said, 'Oh dear, I cannot put that into the computer'. The term was non-existent," he says.

However much society suggests men take a more active role in domestic chores, the label of *householder is still* equated with weakness, or not recognised at all. Despite figures collated by the Office of National Statistics, which show that their number has more than doubled — from 44,000 to 98,000 between 1992 and 1996 — the perception of the man holding the baby while the wife goes out to work is still a difficult one.

Jon Rees took on the role after his wife, Emma, had their first baby. "It seemed the obvious thing to do," he remembers. "She was working as a journalist, and I was a student." Three children later and a fourth on the way, he continues to enjoy the experience. "But I'm amazed at people's reactions," he says. "It's generally assumed that I'm not fulfilled, that I am just passing the time until I get a proper job."

Like Jon, the majority of men become householders when their wives give birth and then go back to better paid employment than they could find. Paul Giggle was a production manager at an engineering company, but gave it up five years ago when their third child was born. "My wife, Debbie, was earning more money than me and her career path was far brighter than mine," he admits.

But the deciding factor is not always economic. Some fathers become primary carers because they simply don't like their job. Bob Harper says that his wife Patty, a designer for Laura Ashley, "enjoyed her job a lot more than I did". He left his job a week before she resumed hers, and is "perfectly happy".

"My wife is earning money, but I'm doing the most important thing: I'm raising our child. Some days I've thought, what the hell am I doing? But I had plenty of days at work like that."

For every householder who has embraced this domestic role, there is another who has fallen into it involuntarily. Many of the men I tried to contact were reluctant to be interviewed. They felt as though their partners had out-performed them. In some way, it doesn't square with their concept of masculinity.

Even for those who have conquered their own fears of personal inadequacy, there are the prejudices of others to overcome. Mike Roberts suffered clinical depression caused by isolation from male company. He complained of being ignored in parks and playgrounds by housewives.

"I get on well with the mums," says another householder, "but it only goes so far. It isn't long before somebody starts the double entendres, which is every bit as intimidating as being a girl on a building site."

As a result of hearing experiences of isolation and discrimination like this, Seth Gillman set up Householder Link, a support group for householders and single fathers who have found it difficult to break into the network of social contacts that mothers take for granted.

"In the same way that women have supported each other for generations," Gillman wrote in the first edition of his newsletter, *Him Indoors*, "we pioneers of householdry and single fatherhood must club together, if only to share our experiences and let each other know that we are not alone."

However, with only 70 names on the mailing list, the newsletter has some way to go before it reaches the proportions of its American equivalent, *Dad to Dad*, which has a website and annual convention.

For all those householders who feel under the cosh, there is further consolation from Adrienne Burgess, the author of *Fatherhood Reclaimed*. Her theory is that children with the father as the primary carer are more likely to thrive socially and that their educational achievement is higher. They even seem to score a higher IQ.

"It's partly because more men have made an active choice than women. Women do it because it's expected and lots of them are very unhappy. Fathers are mostly happier about it, they are there because, despite gender conditioning, they have chosen to do so. Also, because the mothers feel so guilty because they're at work all day, they come in at night and pounce on the baby, who gets an extra dose from this enthusiastic parent."

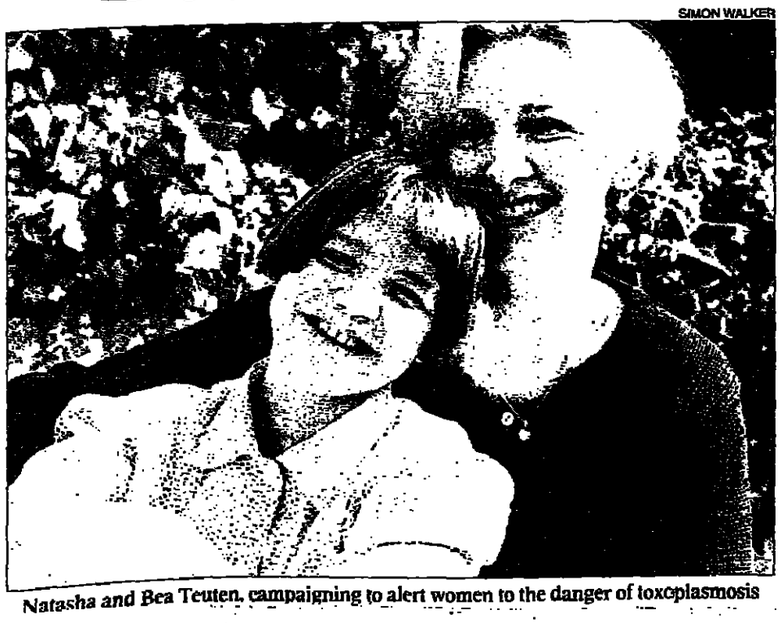
Nonetheless, even householders who feel largely positive about their choice are conscious of a tolerance threshold. Bob Harper says he might not be so content if being a householder were a life sentence.

"Ultimately, I've always known that I won't be doing it forever," he says. When the last of Matthew Coltman's four sons reached primary school age last year, he went back to full-time work. "I was very glad the first day I got in the car and drove to work after 14 years," he says. "It does get you down."

● *You can contact Householder Link by writing to PO Box 636, Thornton Heath, London, CR7 8TQ.*

Beware the hidden peril in a lovable pet

SIMON WALKER



Natasha and Bea Teuten, campaigning to alert women to the danger of toxoplasmosis

Aileen Ballantyne reports on an illness that affects the foetus

A visit to friends with kittens during the early days of her first pregnancy will remain forever etched on the mind of Bea Teuten, a west London lawyer.

The effects of toxoplasmosis — an illness caught from a tiny parasite carried by some cats — had devastating effects on her unborn baby. Her daughter, Natasha, now nine, was born with scars on her eyes and lesions on her brain.

Although Natasha goes to a normal school, the effects of the disease left her with damaged sight. She also has epilepsy and mild cerebral palsy. "We are luckier than we might have been," said Mrs Teuten. "Natasha can see well enough to read, but it's difficult. If you can imagine sitting on top of a double decker bus in a tunnel trying to read a telephone directory, that's what it is like for Natasha."

Toxoplasmosis is contracted by swallowing anything infected with the parasite. The most likely source is undercooked meat. Others include unwashed fruit and vegetables, cat litter and soil contaminated by cat faeces. Feral cats, cats in poor health and domestic cats allowed out to hunt are most at risk of carrying the parasite. Kittens can also be born with the infection. Although toxoplasmosis is parasitic and can affect any warm-blooded animal, cats are the only ones which shed the parasite in their faeces.

Mrs Teuten remembers that the kittens were "over everything including the kitchen table" during her visit. Like most people who get toxoplasmosis she didn't know she had it — and only experienced mild flu-like symptoms.

Angered by the lack of awareness of such a potentially devastating — and avoidable — illness, Mrs Teuten set up a registered charity, The Toxoplasmosis Trust, shortly after Natasha's birth. This week the trust has launched the Daisy Chain campaign to alert all health professionals and pregnant women to the dangers. At a seminar for midwives, the trust found that although most of them midwives knew that a blood test could detect infection in pregnant women, only half knew that treating the mother with antibiotics could reduce the risk to the unborn baby.

Dr David Joynson, head of the Toxoplasma Reference Unit for England and Wales, and medical adviser to the trust, says that about one in five women in Britain of childbearing age have already had toxoplasmosis. "Once you have had the illness you develop an immunity to further infection, although not, of course, to other infections such as listeriosis or salmonella which are also dangerous for pregnant women," he says.

Every year, about 1,600 pregnant women in Brita contract toxoplasmosis ar about 40 per cent pass it on their unborn child. Effec include miscarriage, stillbirt brain damage and eye pro lems. Experts believe that it more common in pregnan than more widely recognis risks including German me sles, listeria or salmonella.

One option would be screen all pregnant women f toxoplasmosis immediate after falling pregnant, as done in France. However, t £1 million needed for trials h not been forthcoming.

"It is very frustrating, aft all these years, that the go ernment still turns its back the fact that this proble exists," Mrs Teuten said.

Mrs Teuten has three mo children, all perfectly health but she says she "never stop thinking about how Natash got the illness. "If I had had test while I was pregnant an had known I was infected could have had treatment. I had, the chances are th Natasha would not have be so severely affected and h sight might not have be damaged so badly."

HOW TO AVOID TOXOPLASMOSIS

Avoid the following

- Raw or undercooked meat.
- Unwashed or uncooked vegetables and fruit.
- Cat faeces and soil contaminated by cats.
- Unpasteurised goat's milk and products made from it.
- Sheep at lambing time (pregnant farm workers).

● Toxoplasmosis Trust Helpline is on 0171-713 0599

A rabbi claims his book preaches honest Judaism. Others brand it a sex manual, writes **Madeleine Kingsley**

Keep it kosher in bed

CHRIS HARRIS



Rabbi Schmuel Boteach, the Orthodox rabbi, has a sybaritic view to life and hopes to stimulate change in others

If it seems strange that a pious rabbi should write a sex manual, Rabbi Shmuel "Shmuley" Boteach is quick to defuse any hint of sensationalism. "Judaism," he says, "is the one religion that not only allows sex for pleasure but sees sex as the holiest of all acts because it brings life into the world — and even when it doesn't, it sews two people together as one flesh, one soul."

Further defying the stereotype of the unworldly Hassidic scholar, Rabbi Boteach says he will be delighted if *Kosher Sex*, his contentious new pillow book, brings money and celebrity. Just 31, but married for ten years, he has to support his wife, Deborah, and six children (one boy and five girls aged between nine years and three months) and he is keen to send out a wake-up call to the Anglo-Jewish community.

A dapper American — "part pushy pop star, part Groucho Marx", said one of his student followers — Rabbi Boteach delivers his views at high speed. His Brooklyn accent rattles like hail on a tin roof: a little jealousy in marriage heightens attachment; oral sex is a permitted pleasure; male masturbation, being a waste of the *libidinous* energy best shared with your wife, is not; married sex is by far the most passionate, because only when both of you know you're committed to the long haul can you be uninhibited in bed.

And if a husband's eye strays to raunchy lingerie in a shop window he must... "Avert his eye?" I suggest. "No," says Rabbi Boteach. "He must immediately enter the store and buy the undergarments with his wife (and none other) in mind."

And forget the myth, curiously widespread even among Jews, that observant couples make passion-killing love through a hole in a sheet. Rabbi Boteach says one should love entirely in the buff, so that after foreplay (during which you can wear a black basque, full American *football gear or whatever* turns you on) not a single stitch is allowed to impede skin-on-skin intimacy.

And *Kosher Sex has good news for women.* The Torah explicitly enjoins a man to pleasure his wife on *every occasion in bed, never to use her as a sexual outlet or* betray the closeness of the moment by fantasising about being with another woman. "How can a woman possibly enjoy it, or have an orgasm, if the man's mind is in outer space?" Rabbi Boteach asks.

The more challenging news is that he believes the bed to be a proper place for kissing and making up. "So when emotions are raw and extra words will put more petrol on the fire, first make love to remind each other how much you care, and to pave over what divides you. Resolve the issue afterwards when conversation can be more productive."

Rabbi Boteach's mission to entertain people in a way that encourages them to think and, perhaps, change their lives, began ten years ago, when he was sent from America to Oxford by the ultra-orthodox Lubavitch Rebbe to be the city's first resident rabbi for 30 years. He exploded on to the university scene by creating a cultural society called L'Chaim (from the Hebrew toast "to life"). Soon famous for its sybaritic Friday night dinners, with wine and even whisky (amazing what appeal this had for hungry students), L'Chaim opened branches in London and Cambridge as Rabbi Boteach lured a glittering succession of speakers to his soirées. Mikhail Gorbachev and Boy George, the novelist Amos Oz and the Argentinian footballer Diego Maradona, Jon Voight, Leonard Nimoy and Bibi Netanyahu — all have succumbed to his blandishments.

While Rabbi Boteach brings a similar energy to his new book, part of his motive for writing it is poignantly personal, relating to his parents' divorce — "the defining moment of my life" — when he was eight. As if to compensate for this boyhood disillusion, mending hearts and healing wounds became his aim. His greatest dream was — and remains — to make a lifelong happy marriage of his own.

"The best thing about marrying young and inexperienced, as orthodox Jews still do," says the rabbi, "is that you're not constantly up against unknown sexual yardsticks, comparing and competing with earlier lovers. So the beauty of sex is that it's not about how well you do it; it's about pure enjoyment."

The great lie of the Sixties generation, he says, is that sex is the one human activity that never palls. Not so: sex, too, grows boring when it is as overexposed as it has been and when all the focus is on the body rather than on the whole personality and soul. "Our society talks so much about having great sex, we see it at the movies but largely miss out in the bedroom. In America the average married couple between 25 and 40 has sex twice a week, which sounds like a lot, but it lasts just three and half minutes."

No wonder then, that seven years into marriage three-quarters of couples say they are dissatisfied with their sex lives — and might consider straying. *Kosher Sex*, says Rabbi Boteach, holds the key to maintaining married mystery, the frisson of having an affair with your own spouse. That key is abstinence. Orthodox couples refrain from sex while the wife is menstruating and for seven days afterwards — "during which time," Rabbi Boteach enthuses, "the couple can concentrate on the emotional and friendship side of their marriage, discuss their work, their children and life outside their bedroom. As the time apart comes to an end, physical hunger builds to an intense longing for one another, culminating in a delicious monthly honeymoon."

● *Kosher Sex, A Recipe for Passion and Intimacy by Shmuel Boteach (Duckworth £9.95) is published on May 21; a public debate on Kosher Sex takes place at the Criterion Theatre on June 22 at 7.30pm, tickets £10 from Simone (0171-493 3132).*

I bring you good news



Ruth Gledhill follows as the offices of *The Times* are blessed

"IT IS to you I call, to all people I appeal," the Anglican priest said to the small crowd of journalists, editors, managers and newspaper secretaries. "Understand, you simpletons, what it is to be shrewd, you stupid people: understand what it is to have sense."

He paused and looked at us before adding: "This is the word of the Lord."

"Thanks be to God," we responded, meekly.

After more than ten years in a former Wapping warehouse, *The Times* had moved into new offices on the other side of Pennington Street. In doing so, the 213-year-old newspaper left behind the rest of News International in the parish of St Peter's, Wapping, and found a new spiritual home in the parish of St George-in-the-East, Stepney.

Thus it was that the rector, the Rev Gillean Craig, was at the reception desk of the new offices, designed by American-born architect Rick Mather, requesting God's blessing on the newspaper, the building and all who worked in it.

We proceeded through the newsroom, business, sports and picture desks. We went up to the more elevated offices of the feature, arts, letters, obituary, Weekend and leader departments. Fr Craig, in cope and surplice, blessed as we passed. He sprinkled the shiny new desks and computers with holy water using an aspergillum made from the mythically-cleansing herbs of rosemary and thyme, from his rectory garden at St George's.

At times our procession stopped for a brief commentary, or a reading or prayer. "Visit we beseech you O Lord this place," prayed Fr Craig at the foot of the stairs. "Let your Holy angels dwell here to guard and preserve in peace all who work here." On the ground floor, home to the newsroom, we had more tough talk from Proverbs 8. "Listen! For I shall speak clearly, you will have plain speech from me; for my lips speak nothing but the truth, and my lips detest wicked talk."

We arrived in the conference room, where the news schedule is debated, and it was time for the address. There was no such thing as private religion, said Fr Craig. "Our relationship with God is worked out corporately, together.

"The calling of running a newspaper is a very high calling. Truth can very frequently be an uncomfortable challenge. But it is only truth that counts."

He ended with a prayer that all who worked for *The Times* should be guided and inspired by God. "Grant them a fierce love of truth, a clear discernment of evasion and falsehood," he said, "that, presenting true report and just analysis of events, your justice, righteousness and peace may prevail and flourish."

● *The Rev Gillean Craig, St George-in-the-East, Cannon Street Road, E1 OBH (0171-481 1345).*

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PETER NICHOLLS



The Rev Gillean Craig blessing *The Times's* new offices

Christians must not forget that Jesus was a Jew

Credo

JOHN HALDANE



Christians proclaim belief in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Jeshua*; Christ is the Greek for *Messiah*, meaning the anointed one. Christianity bears the imprint of Jerusalem and Athens. From the Middle Ages on, it has seen itself as a largely Western religion and shaped its theology through categories inherited *from Greek philosophy.*

John's Gospel tells us that "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God". In Latin, word is *verbum* which has a linguistic connotation. The Greek, however, is *logos* which suggests a philosophical idea. The *logos is what the ancient philosophers* sought: the account of reality; the ultimate principle of the cosmos, today, the theory of everything. The author of John's Gospel was a Greek speaker addressing his kind. His success explains the acceptance of the New Testament message.

But Jesus was not Greek and it is improbable that he taught in Greek. Jesus was a Jew. To the *Canaanite woman seeking a* cure for her daughter, he said: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". The apparent exclusivity of this is immediately countered by the fact that he then says: "O woman, great is your *faith! Be it done for you as you* desire", and her daughter is cured *(Matthew 15, 24-8)*. Later, of course, the good news of Jesus's life, death and resurrection was presented to Jew and non-Jew alike and soon there were more non-Jewish Christians than Jewish ones.

Still, Jesus was a Jew. His mother was a Jew, his disciples were Jews, and St Paul (Saul) was a Jew. I emphasise these truths because they are pertinent to the current question of the attitude of Christians to Jews during the Holocaust. In its reported text, *We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah*, the Vatican seeks "to heal the wounds of past misunderstandings and injustices". It refers *to the Holocaust as "an* unspeakable tragedy which can never be forgotten" and asks "our Jewish friends... to hear us with open hearts". The document also acknowledges the Christian contribution to anti-Judaism, though *it distinguishes between this* and anti-Semitism which it takes to be a modern, irreligious, racial doctrine.

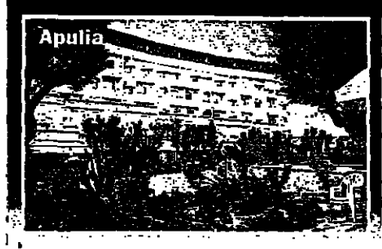
Many Jews have found the Vatican reflection wanting, claiming that it fails to be self-critical. I understand this feeling but I want to emphasise *the cruel absurdity of Christian anti-*Judaism. Jesus was a Jew, the Messiah promised to the chosen people of God. The universal evangelisation came later and in no way did Jesus imply — even as he died on the cross — that the Jews had forfeited their special status.

Christianity teaches that Jesus was the incarnation of God: fully human and fully divine. As God, Christ was beyond race, culture or history; as *man, Jesus was a Jew. Now leap* forward to the extermination camps and picture the figures and faces that passed through on their way to be murdered. Among those one would have seen many times the "doubles" of Jesus, his mother, the evangelists and St Paul. It is a mark against *Christian culture that it could have* allowed a mentality to develop that would push the people of Jesus the Saviour into the ovens. Jesus said: "Whatsoever you do unto the least of these you do unto me also", and when he said it he was looking at Jews.

● *John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy, at the University of St Andrews*

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CHANGING TIMES

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday of Easter

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Responses (Morley); 3.15 Ch E & Litany, Sumsion in G.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10.45 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé); 3.30 Florence Nightingale Commemoration, A Gaelic blessing (Rutter).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Stainer in A; 4 Ch E, Responses (Moore), Sumsion in G.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: As bountiful as May (Ball), Canon Hindley; 10.30 Euch, Missa L'homme arme *sexti toni* (Josquin); 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, Chancellor A Howells; 3.30 E, Blow in the Dorian mode.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Lift thine eyes (Mendelssohn), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Tantum ergo (Duruflé); 3.15 E, Greene in C; 6.30 Christian Aid service, Archdeacon of Canterbury.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, Canon C Hill; 3 E.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon R More; 11.15 S Euch; 6 Festival E.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Boyce in C; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton); 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Missa pange lingua (Josquin); 3.30 Ch E, Sumsion in G.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M: 11.15 S Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina); 6 E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Schubert in G, Rev C Kennedy; 5 Ch E, St Paul's service (Howells).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Schubert in C; 6 Ch E, A: Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Vaughan Williams in G; 11.15 HC, Stanford in G & B, Canon D Brown; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Rev J McFarlane; 3.45 E, Collegium regale (Howells).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Hereford service (Lloyd); 11.30 M, Vaughan Williams in G; 3 E; 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Sumsion in F; 12.15 HC; 3 E, Gloucester service (Sanders), A: At the round earth's imagined corners (Parry).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, O sacrum convivium (Vann); 11.30 M; 6.30 ES, Second service (Leighton).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Missa sedis Christi (Mathias); 11.30 M, Ireland in F; 3.30 E, Rev Preb F Rodgers.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Stanford in C; 4 Ch E, A: Teach me O Lord (Attwood).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon N Vincent; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley); 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Watson in E; 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé); 3 Church Lads and Girls service; 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa festiva (Peeters), Archdeacon of Northumberland; 6 Ch E.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 Family C; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for our times (Wilby); 3.30 E, St John's service (Howells); 6.30 EP.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn); 3.30 E, Rootham in E minor.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa O *quam* gloriosum (Victoria); 2 Diocesan Children's Festival; 6 E, Archdeacon of Portsmouth.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch, Canon D Grice; 11.30 M, Noble in B minor; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Jackson in G.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G; 3.15 E.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass for eight voices (Hassler); 11.30 M, Responses (Radcliffe); 3 Ch E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mozart in D, Canon T Page; 6.30 E, Ireland in F, Rev R Buckley.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3 Ch E, A: My beloved Spake (Handley).

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 M & Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Darke in E; 3.15 E, Gloucester service (Howells).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 3 Save the Children service; 6 E, St Paul's service (Howells).

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Sol Euch, Easter anthems (Scott), Canon R Capper; 6.30 Sol E.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.30 M, Ireland in F; 3 E.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Euch, Mozart in D; 3 E; 5.45 Organ Recital: John Hosking; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass, Schubert in C; 12 Mass; 3 Sol V & B, Ardens est cor meum (Victoria); 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart); 3.30 E, Canon A Martin.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart); 11.30 M, Dyson in D; 4 E, St John's service (Howells).

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Sol Euch; 6.30 E.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Sumsion in F.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, Awake thou wintry earth (Bach); 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch M, Noble in B minor; 6 Ch E.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Suffolk justice service, Missa parodia (Trepte); 11.30 Ch C, Darke in E minor; 3.30 Ch E, Dyson in D.

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch, Darke in E, Very Rev Dr M G St A Jackson; 7 EP.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 MS; 6 Napier Chamber Orchestra and Choir; 8 ES, Rev K K Watson.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, A: Arise in us (Shaw), Rev R Frazer; 6 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton); 3.30 Ch E, Service for trebles (Weelkes).

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M, Stanford in C; Rev W P Quill; 3.15 Ch E, A: Lift thine eyes (Mendelssohn); 4.20 Organ recital: David Leigh.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C; 11.30 S Euch, Missa sancti Pauli (Vann), Rev L Winkett; 3.15 E, Stanford in A, Rev M Johnson; 6 ES, Rev S Oliver.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Ave Maria (Palestrina); 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Sumsion in A, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, W1: 9.30, 11.30, Rev Preb R Bewes; 6.30 EP, Rev P Blackham.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 Maria Magdalene (Gabrieli).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, A: Os justi (Bruckner), Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood.

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Moscow Road, W2: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM, Cantate Domino (Monteverdi); 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Rev S Millar; 5, 7.30 Informal service, Mr P Pollock.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa del quinto tuono (Lotti).

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Schubert in G; 12.30 Mass: 3.30 V & B, Scio enim (Lassus); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: Feast of the Apparition of the Holy Cross.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP; 6.30 Christian Aid service, Bishop of London.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 10.45 Squadron Commemoration; 11 M, Stanford in C; 6.30 Ch Euch.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Ecce sacerdos (Bruckner), Mozart in B flat, Bishop of London; 6.30 Ch E, Walmisley in D minor, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M, The surrender of the soul (Cornelius), Rev I Greenhalgh.

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Whitlock in G.

ST JAMES'S, *Garlickhythe,* EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Margaret McGuire, soloist.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch, A: Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Rev D Lawson; 6 Ch E, Short service (Weelkes).

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Family service; 6.30 HC, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 6.30 E, Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Eliensis (Wills).

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service; Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E, Rev M Fuller.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Mozart in C, Father B Scott; 6 Sol E & B, Collegium regale (Howells), Archdeacon G Reid; 7.15 LM.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Stravinsky mass, Rev G Palmer.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa se la face ay pale (Dufay), Father A R Chidwick.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, A: O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons), Rev P R C Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Thy word is a lantern (Purcell), Canon L F Webber.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Stanford in A; 3.30 E, Collegium Magdalene Oxoniensis (Leighton).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, A: Set me as a seal (Walton), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, WC1: 8.30 HC; 11.15 M, Britten in C.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Cantate Domino (Plainsong), A: Blessed be the God and Father.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Te Deum (Verdi) Band of the Welsh Guards, Rev T A R Cole; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Darke in E, Rev R Nurton.

● *Compiled by Deborah King.*

THE TIMES WEEKEND



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SIMON WALKER

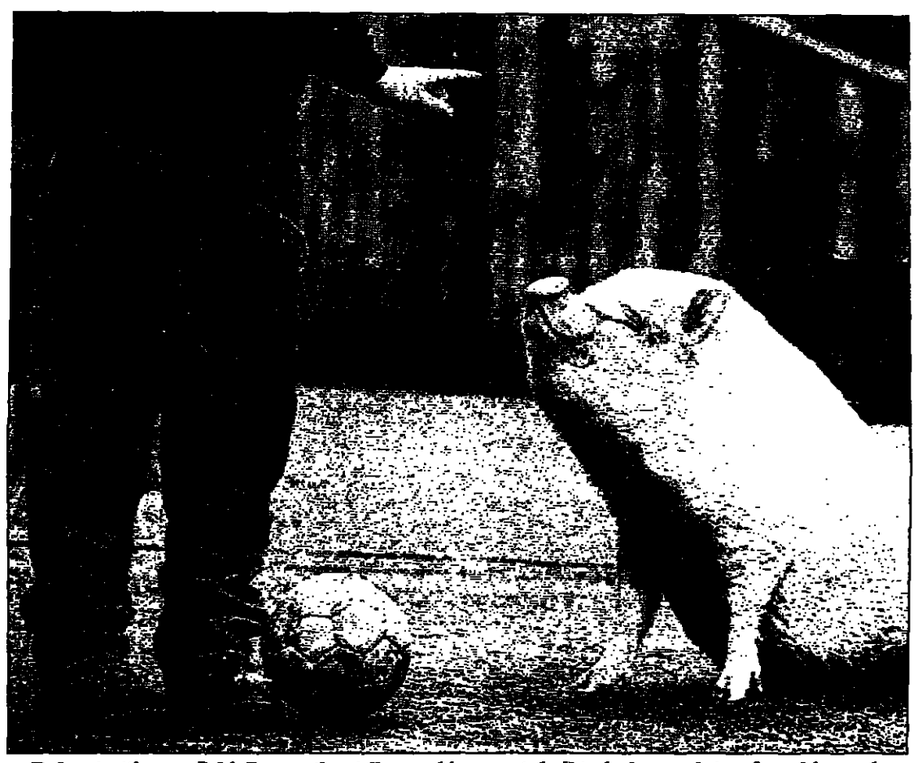
Bruno, a two-year-old pig at Longleat Wildlife Park, surprised his keepers with his flair for football. Here he sharpens up his dribbling and weaving skills by manoeuvring the ball between traffic cones

I could play for West Ham

Brains and brawn mark out football's sizzling new stars. Kathryn Knight meets them on the trot



Bruno and Blossom enjoy some encouraging words — and treats



Before trotting on field, Bruno, the striker and hero, gets ball technique pointers from his coach

The ball appears and I can almost sense the roar of the crowd, the surge of adrenalin and a whiff of anticipation. A nervous-looking coach huddles on the sidelines, with half-time treats lined up ready to slake the players' thirst. Then the gate is thrown open and, to the whistled encouragement of their trainer, the team's trotters tap on the Tarmac, running like fury after the ball.

Trotters? Yes, in front of us are trotters, followed by two snouts and two excitedly waggling pink tails. This is not Old Trafford, but Longleat Wildlife Park in Wiltshire, and Bruno and Blossom, the Chinese pot-bellied pigs, are the unlikely stars of the show.

Contrary to popular belief, pigs really like football. They may not like watching it, but all the signs are there that they certainly like playing it, and indeed may even prove to be rather better at it than their highly paid human counterparts.

After months of loving coaching from their trainer Darren Beasley, the two Bs, raised from piglethood at Longleat, are proving rather nifty with a ball. What they play, in fact, may be more accurately termed "snoutball". For the piggy noses of the pair, far from being stuck in a feed trough from dawn until dusk, are proving as adept at dribbling and tackling as they are at scoffing.

Every day, after a hearty breakfast of swill and monkey nuts, the two-year-old siblings trot out for a little ball technique training under the careful scrutiny of Mr Beasley, who heads Pets Corner at the stately home of the Marquess of Bath. Mr Beasley's unusual timetable came about after a fellow member of staff, struck by the cartoon intelligence of the pigs in the film *Babe*, wondered idly whether real-life pigs could ever be capable of such cleverness.

For Mr Beasley, who has worked at Longleat for 11 years, it was a challenge he could not resist. After working more closely with pigs than the average man, he has long been convinced of their talents and believes that an exercised pig is a happy one. "In the wild, pigs spend the best part of the day using their brains, trying to work out where their next piece of food will come from and making sure they are safe," he says.

"But when they are captive, all those things are done for them and a great deal of their brain goes unused. So you need to do something for them to keep them alert and happy.

"In many ways, pigs are similar to dogs. They respond well to being trained and enjoy being given a challenge and being played with. And you wouldn't keep a dog cooped up all day, so why a pig? Pigs need to keep active to keep their muscles, tendons and ligaments in shape and to prevent them getting bored and depressed. And a bit of footie seems to do the trick nicely."

After tentative experiments teaching the two to recognise commands like "heel" and "sit", Mr Beasley bravely ventured into sporting territory, initially just kicking a ball gently against their snouts to see if they responded.

With the added encouragement of a few strategically placed monkey nuts and rewarding tickles behind the ear (pigs, just like cats, like to be tickled behind the ear), Mr Beasley found that the pigs became remarkably enthusiastic.

Coaches training the human footballer may take note — Mr Beasley believes the two pigs respond rather better to treats and TLC than a punishing schedule.

Bruno is the enthusiast of the duo, although where he goes his more hapless sister follows. Those doubting his affection for his training need only see his pink tail stiffen and waggle furiously when he hears the bounce of the ball on the Tarmac and the way he scratches at the gate of his pen waiting for release.

Male readers will be even less surprised to hear that Bruno is the master technician, the striker and hero, with Blossom rather more the journeypig. Nonetheless, between them they seem to enjoy a kick around.

Bruno, having learnt to dribble rather expertly between cones, is now learning the joys of scoring goals. He plays on grass and Tarmac; vets advised that the pigs should be frequently exercised on Tarmac to wear down the horny parts of their trotters. The pigs do not seem to mind where they play, although on grass they get the added benefit of being able to eat the pitch at the same time.

As far as Mr Beasley knows, the two are the nation's first novice footballing pigs. As yet, they have no one to play against but each other and the willing human helpers at their piggy pen. But for Mr Beasley the sky is the limit and there is all kinds of potential. Sunday league matches, charity five-a-sides, pig trophy play-offs . . .

"I reckon we've only scratched the surface of their potential," he says. "Bruno's ambition is to play for Arsenal at Highbury, and I think we're getting there."

A VET WRITES

Q My boxer, Basil, sounds as if he has swallowed a trombone. His tummy rumbles and has to be heard to be believed. Is this anything to worry about?

A Borborygmus — the medical name for tummy rumbles — is the sound of gas moving in the intestines. A couple of ounces of bran with his food, or a few charcoal biscuits, should absorb enough of the gas to make Basil's trombone play more pianissimo.

Q Our tortoise, Tom, woke up a month ago but he is far from lively. He is moving slower than usual and has hardly eaten. Will he improve when it gets warmer? Is there anything we should do now?

A Tom has used up all his energy reserves during hibernation and so has developed a condition called post-hibernation anorexia (PHA). He needs warmth, food and fluid. Bring him indoors and keep him at a temperature of 25-30C (78-86F). Half an hour in a bowl of warm water up to his neck will raise his temperature and he might drink. Tempt him with all types of food. Complan is useful. If there is no improvement in a day or so, see your vet. Once Tom is on the mend, keep him warm and give him as much food as he will eat. Bean sprouts, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce and green peas are gourmet foods for tortoises. They do not thrive on grass alone.

Q Belinda, my tabby cat, has started to go bald. It began on her abdomen, but now the backs of her hind legs are almost hairless. She does not scratch and there are no signs of skin disease, just baldness. I have seen the vet and he has given me hormone pills for her which he says will make the fur grow again, but I am worried about their long-term use.

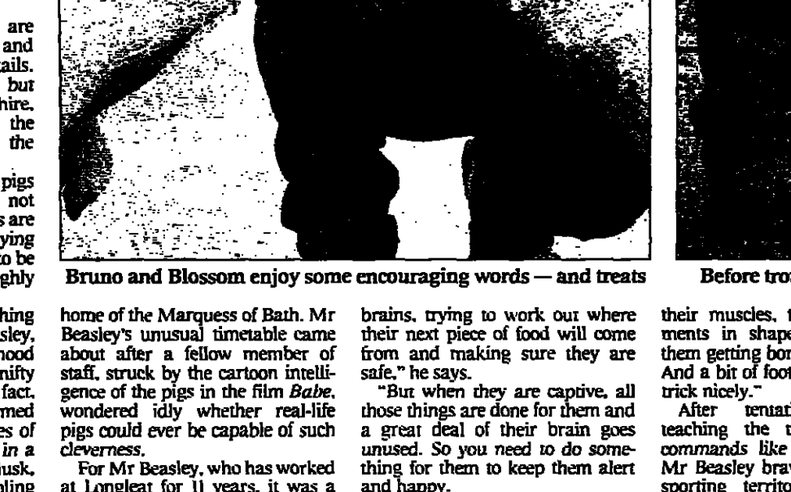
A Belinda seems to be suffering from endocrine alopecia — translated as hormone (endocrine) baldness (alopecia). Hormone injections or pills almost always restart growth without ill effects.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. He regrets that he cannot reply to letters personally.*

Keeping a lion on the leash

Jack Crossley reads up on life in the land of the giants



MIKE WHITE

Leonbergers have been used for centuries to pull carts and rescue swimmers in trouble

When Angela White takes her dogs for a 30-minute walk on Cleethorpes beach, she always allows herself an hour to cover the distance. That is because her dogs are not only awesomely huge, but they look like lions — which means strangers constantly stop her to ask about the ferocious-looking creatures.

The popularity of leonbergers — said to have been bred by the burghers of Leonberg, near Stuttgart in Germany, to resemble the lion on the town's crest — is growing rapidly worldwide. There are about 800 in Britain and more than 115 of them were shown at Crufts this year.

As well as being graceful and impressive, leonbergers are also immensely powerful and have been used for centuries to pull small carts and rescue swimmers in trouble.

Their strength is not suitable for all owners, though: puppies may well resemble cuddly lion cubs, but each will grow into 100-160lb of muscle.

Ms White places emphasis on this in her latest book. "Small breeds can sometimes get away with anti-social behaviour, with owners even thinking that their pets are being cute," she writes. "But it can become a serious problem in a large breed like the leonberger and something that seems cute as a puppy can turn into a 14-stone hooligan.

"Your new leonberger will come into your household and run riot if you don't set rules and abide by them so that the dog knows where it stands. Anyone wanting a dog that requires little or no training would do better to take up flower arranging."

Ms White's three leos — Willow, aged six, and her offspring, Scout and Minty, aged two — are allowed in the kitchen and the hallway while she is present, because these are areas that are easy to clean and there is little chance of damage. All other areas of the house have their doors closed and the dogs are allowed in only on invitation.

Bedrooms are another cause of much anguish and soul-searching. "If you want to remain at the top of the pack," she says, "you must maintain your individual bed area. If you wish to have your dog in the bedroom, make it wait outside the room until you are in — then make it lie at the side of the bed on the floor, or on its own bed at floor level.

"If your leo shows any sign of growling or dominance, stop this privilege immediately — because even the sweetest of leos may get ideas above its station. You could end up with problems and may even have to get rid of the dog. It is most disturbing to have the once-pleasant face of your pet growling and snarling on top of you while you lie in bed."

Although Ms White is keen to point out the dangers of having a large dog, leos are known as gentle giants and also have an uncanny, natural ability to work with people who are unwell or in need of special care. Many owners are astounded as their leo changes attitude and posture when meeting small children or infirm people. They make excellent therapy dogs, visiting hospitals, old people's homes and special schools. Ms White's leos play with her nine cats and help to wash them.

Being large, they eat a lot — food costs about £10 a week each — and require lots of exercise, so are best kept in a large country garden. They also cost at least £600 to buy. But, as the next best thing to the King of the Beasts, perhaps that is to be expected.

● *For a list of breeders, contact the Kennel Club (0171-493 7838) or speak to Jenny Keennish at Kinghearn, Silchester Road, Little London, near Basingstoke, Hampshire RG26 5EX. She is secretary of the Leonberger Club of Great Britain (01256 850778).*

● *Angela White's book, The Leonberger, is published by TFH Kingdom Books (£24.95).*

ANDREW HASSON



Some of the dogs looking for new homes as part of the International Adoptathon

ADOPT ME

FRINDLE, 1, Chewzu, 8, Bird 1, Scribble, 18 months, and Adidas, 3, (pictured above) are some of the dogs looking for new homes as part of this weekend's International Adoptathon. The Adoptathon, which was started in America by the North Shore Animal League, was introduced to Britain in 1996, in co-operation with the National Canine Defence League and the Blue Cross. Today, more than 100 rescue centres nationwide, including the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs Home and the National Animal Welfare Trust, are involved in finding homes for up to 150,000 cats and dogs.

The aim of the Adoptathon, according to Roger Weeks, director of North Shore Animal League International, is to try to persuade the public to buy pets from local animal rescue centres rather than from pet shops or puppy farms. "We want to create a national event which is focused at a local level," he says, "and make people aware that it is just as simple to get an animal from us as from the local pet store."

Last year 2,600 animals were successfully adopted; this year Mr Weeks hopes that 4,000 cats and dogs will find new families. But it is worth remembering, as Mr Weeks points out, "if you adopt a dog it is like adopting a child. It is not just for 12 months; you are taking it on for ten years and it will become a member of the family."

If you are interested in adopting any of the dogs pictured, contact the National Canine Defence League in Shoreham (01273 452576). For information about your nearest participating rescue centre, contact the Adoptathon Hotline (0541 505061). The Adoptathon takes place in Scotland on June 20 and 21.



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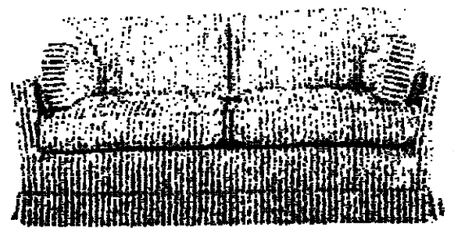


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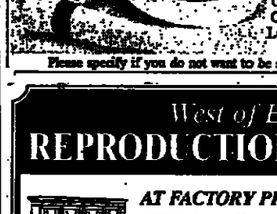
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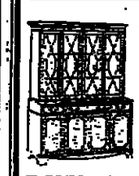


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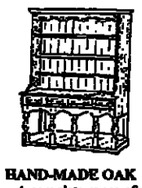
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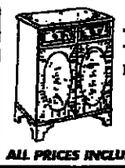
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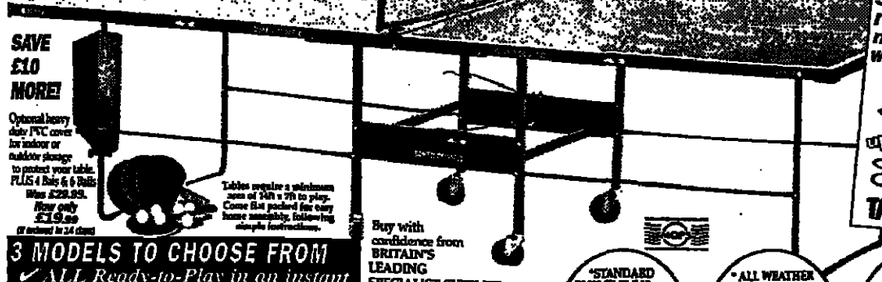
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In this week's challenge, **David Bowker** is forced into being uncharacteristically house-proud, with hideous results

When DIY is a beeline for trouble



The man who edits this column has been getting on my nerves lately. He keeps telephoning me at all hours of the day and night with new ideas for challenges. "How about a week disguised as a giant Danish pastry? A week being buried alive? A week picking other people's noses?"

Last Friday, events took a turn for the worse. He rang with the marvellous news that his girlfriend had chipped in with a few ideas. I am sure she is a wonderful person, but it is thanks to her that I have just completed my most gruelling and futile challenge so far: a week "being houseproud".

The very concept of house-proud was so alien to me that I had to consult a dictionary to find out what it entailed. According to Collins, a house-proud person is "proud of the appearance, cleanliness etc of their house, sometimes excessively so".

This meant I had my work cut out for me. I practically never worry about creating a welcoming hallway. Nor does the woman I live with. It is not that we don't care or that we are slovenly by choice. On the contrary, we would love to live in a clean, well-ordered environment. But we suffer from a grave medical condition: we are bone idle.

Once I had cleaned and scrubbed the house from top to bottom, I lay down on my bed and passed out. When I came round, one question was uppermost in my mind: the house was now clean, but most of the paintwork looked cheap and

SEVEN LONG DAYS



hideous. We required a completely new colour scheme, but which hues to choose? The problem seemed insoluble.

On Tuesday morning, serendipity came to the rescue. Gabriel, our toddler, was sick all over the living room carpet. I tried my hardest to remove the stains, but to no avail. Then I had the bright idea of redecorating the room to match. I went to London and picked up some curtains in a suitable shade from John Lewis. Before hanging the curtains, I painted the living room walls a bilious shade of egg-yolk yellow. Hey presto! Within 12 hours, the room was fit for a nauseous king.

Drained by the exertions of the day, I fell asleep before 10pm. Six hours later, I awoke with a start. The house now looked spick and span inside, but what about the outside? I lay awake sweating as I wondered what visitors must think of the unkempt front lawn, the peeling paint on the window frames, the general air of neglect and decay.

At first light, I drove to Homebase and purchased a Flymo and some plants to give my front garden a complete facelift. When the grass was mown and I had planted a scented border and some tender perennials, the incontinent cat from next-door-but-one created a fetching mini-pool in the centre of the lawn.

A lot has been written about the anti-social properties of the leylandii, which, when planted 3ft apart, will immediately grow to form a hedge that is taller than Nelson's column. My neighbours planted such a hedge a year ago and the trees have already doubled in size. Not wishing my new garden to be deprived of sunlight, I took evasive action. I stamped on my neighbour's leylandii trees until they were dead.

With the garden in order, it was time to repaint the house. I climbed a ladder and started on the bedroom window frames. For my colour scheme, I had opted for a combination of gold and dark blue: a tip I picked up from *Country Homes and Interiors* magazine.

As I was applying gold paint to the window frames, a large bee stuck its bum in my paint pot and then crawled across the window pane. This annoyed me so much that I took a swipe at the bee with my paintbrush, missed and managed to fall off the ladder.

As I fell, I spilt the paint. The mess the bee left behind was nothing compared to the thick trail of golden-brown sludge that now extends from my bedroom window to the front doorstep. Fit for *Country Homes and Interiors*? Not exactly. In fact, my house looks as if the biggest, glitziest seagull in the world had acted rather like my son did earlier.

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

MAY 15-17

Land-yachting. A one-day course in Cambridgeshire with Anglian Activity Breaks (01603 700770). Price £65.

Boat-handling courses on the Norfolk Broads. From £70, with Norfolk Broads Direct (01603 782207).

Bread-making courses on English period breads and cakes. At the Village Bakery, Melmerby, Penrith, Cumbria (01768 881515). Two-day courses, £250 inclusive.

A wildlife and natural history weekend. In Montgomeryshire, Wales, with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083), £150.

A foundation course for strings; further musical theory. At the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchen, Herts (01462 459446). Prices from £87 to £115 inclusive.

Windsurfing breaks. Three-days with Outdoor Adventure, Bude, Cornwall (01288 361312). Price, including equipment and accommodation, £199.

Photography — working with close-ups and flash; family birdwatching; improve your watercolours; behind the scenes at National Trust properties in Suffolk; painting and drawing for families. At The Field Studies Centre, East Berghold, Colchester, Essex (01206 289283). From £105 residential, £85 non-residential.

George Gershwin centenary course; flower painting. Higham Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price £112 residential.

Computing with Windows 95; patchwork and quilting; lichens; drawing for watercolours. Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). Price per course, £92.

Divided visions — Britain and Ireland, 1788-1922; flowers and birds of early spring. The Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire (01525 292901), £99.

Completing your tax return; writing romantic fiction; advanced French conversation; exploring acrylics; Honiton lace. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Prices from £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Clarinet and flute weekend; fabric painting for fun; introduction to desktop publishing. At The Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, Sussex (01798 865306). Residential £114, non-residential £90.

Creative drawing workshop; calligraphy for today — Gothic; silversmithing projects; stained glass. At The West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811303) Prices from £150 residential.

A cookery course on French cuisine; getting the best out of your relationships; learn to swim; singing for pleasure. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Prices £149 residential, £103 non-residential.

MAY 22-24

Walking in Constable country; birdwatching; tree identification in spring. Flatford Mill Field Study Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). From £105 residential, £82 non-residential.



Keep with tradition, bake an English period cake

Windsurfing, dinghy sailing and canoeing on a multi-activity weekend. Nutfield Priory, Redhill, Surrey (01737 822066). Half-board accommodation from £59, activities from £5-£8 per session.

Birdwatching in the Yorkshire Dales; nature and landscape photography. The Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire (01729 83033!). From £110 residential, £85 non-residential.

Wildflowers; birdsong; spring walking; family and children's nature courses. The Scottish Field Studies Association, Kindrogan Field Centre, Pitlochry (01250 881286). Children £50, adults £91.

Writer's workshop; goldsmithing; creative embroidery. The Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). £88.

An invitation to croquet; wine-tasting; Alexander technique. The Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). From £92 to £122.

Shakespearean comedy; Iris Murdoch; a Russian weekend. The University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course, £117.

Kipling and Conrad. The history and heritage of two famous writers. The Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Four days from £228 residential, £154 non-residential.

Spring bridge; bags of quilting. Higham Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Four days £162 inclusive.

Origins of Charles Darwin — his early life in Shropshire; family naturalist and bird weekend; introduction to D-Map and recorder. At The Field Studies Centre, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (01743 850380). Prices from £135, residential.

MAY 29-31

Elgar birthday weekend. In Herefordshire with Acorn Activities (01432 830083) £175.

Designing a garden for wildlife. At the Field Studies Council, Juniper Hall Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Price: £102 residential, £78 non-residential.

An invitation to croquet; Britain's romantic age (1780-1830); pictures from fabric; photographing people in monochrome. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 52427). Prices from £115 residential, £85 non-residential.

Dinghy sailing courses. With Sunsail (01705 222224) at centres in England and Scotland. Two days from £80.

The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 revisited; how to write and illustrate books for children; drawing for the terrified; tasting tea and coffee; improving memory. Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Residential £159 non-residential £69.



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Natural history of the Scottish Highlands; spring birds, introducing mosses. The Scottish Field Studies Association, Kindrogan Centre, Pitlochry (01250 881286). From £89 to £91 inclusive.

Monitoring wildlife conservation. The University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120, inclusive.

Hepplewhite and Sheraton furniture; taking the waters — spas and seaside resorts 1550-1950. The Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525 292901). Price per course £99.

Lewis Carroll — logician, photographer and Wonderland; a pianist's journey through the 19th century. The Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Course £70, residential.

Learn drawing and painting; moulding and framing pictures; Chinese wok cookery; speak elementary Spanish; introduction to the personal computer. The Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Residential £149, non-residential £103.

Yoga weekend for everybody. At Aura-Soma, Tatford, Lincs. A full yoga programme plus workshops on energy balance. Price from £100 inclusive. With the Ruth White Yoga centre: 0181-644 0309.

Welsh Border cycle tours. Follow the river Teme to its source or trace the route of Offa's Dyke. With Wheely Wonderful Cycling, Elton, Ludlow, Shropshire (01568 7707755). Price for three days, including accommodation, cycles route maps and back-up services, £103 for adults, £83 for children.

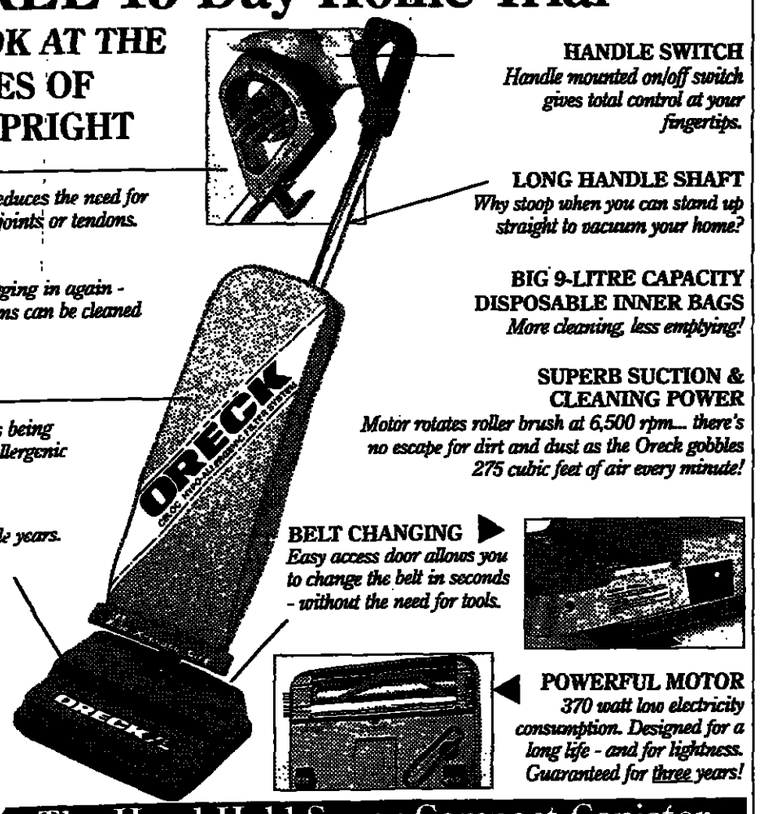
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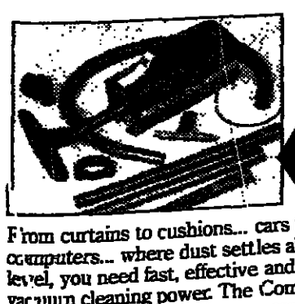
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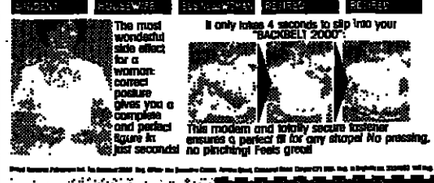
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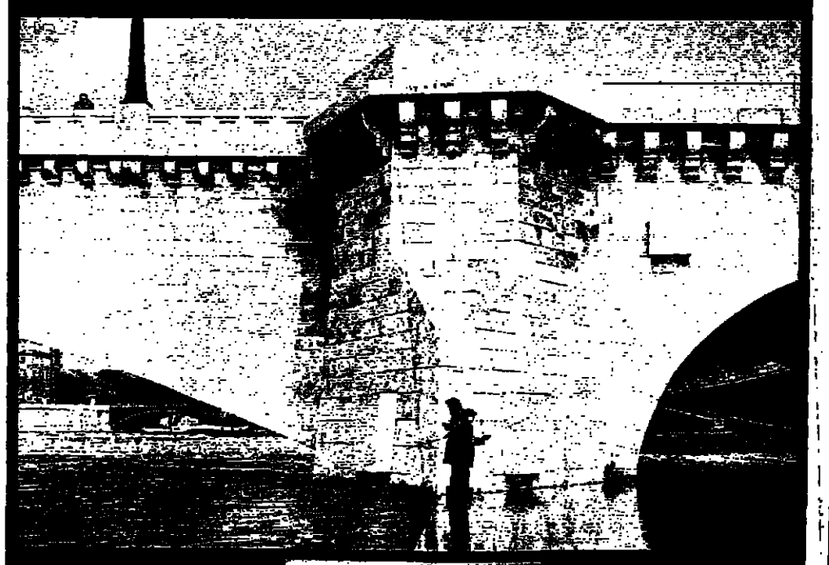
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A long summer on Long Island

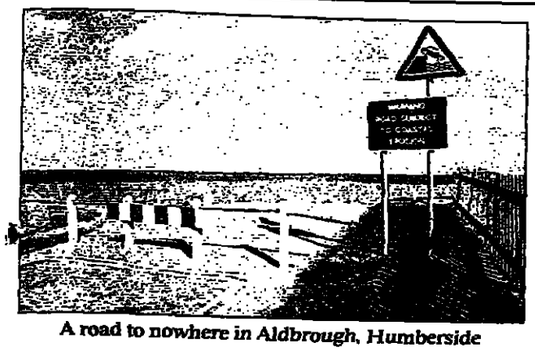
The Hamptons · 24

THE TIMES TRAVEL

Party nights out on the Toon

Newcastle · 31





A road to nowhere in Aldbrough, Humberside



JOHN GILES

In 1993 Holbeck Hall Hotel in Scarborough gave in to the sea and slipped spectacularly down the cliff. Scarborough Borough Council was later held liable for the damage

Gone with the wind (and sea)

Stephen McClarence visits the changing face of the Yorkshire coast, where time and tide wait for no tourist

Mary and Maurice Downes wanted a quiet retirement at the seaside. But they didn't bargain for the North Sea and its fury. "When it's really rough, you can hear the ornaments rattling in houses along this road," says Mary. "We didn't particularly want a sea view, but it looks as though we might be getting one."

The Downes live in a bungalow on a cliff-top estate at Withernsea. A seaside resort under siege from wind and waves, it's found along winding country lanes in Holderness — a coat-tail of land flapping limply off East Yorkshire. Life there, say residents with a wryness born of fear, is one long cliffhanger.

The sea is 100 yards from the Downes's front door, but is edging nearer by the month, gouging great chunks out of the clay cliffs. This is the disappearing coast — one of the most crumbling, most eroded coasts in Europe. Catch it while you can.

The east coast of Yorkshire — particularly the long, sleepy 30-mile sweep from Bridlington down to the Humber — is under constant pressure from the relentlessly pounding sea. Three dozen villages listed in the Domesday Book have been swallowed up. Churches have been washed away. With a northerly gale behind it, the sea picks off bungalows and farms, the odd guest house, chalets by the dozen.

The whole coast is affected. Five years ago, Scarborough's 113-year-old Holbeck Hall Hotel slipped spectacularly down the cliff. A whole street in Whitby is under threat. Its houses stand on the brink.

But nowhere is more threatened than Withernsea, where the late-Victorian pier survived for only seven years before being washed away. Only the pier entrance remains — two battlemented towers leading nowhere. A few years later the lighthouse was built half-a-mile inland, just to be on the safe side.

North of the town, 30 feet of Yorkshire disappears every year. The coastline has receded a mile in the past 500 years. Roads peter out into the sea and residents joke that Leeds and Sheffield, 60 miles inland, will eventually be Yorkshire's premier resorts. A recently completed £7-million emergency repairs programme has shored up Withernsea's promenade, with a new sea wall and granite boulders to deflect waves that may be 50 feet high. It may just shift the problem further down the coast, for someone else to sort out, but the resort hopes that the repairs herald a return to its great days.

"This is how it used to be," says nightclub owner Richard Stead, from the Withernsea 2000 regeneration group, an alliance of local authorities and businesses. He spreads out a 1930s photograph. Holidaymakers queue at Rileys Cream Ices stall, fathers with rolled-up sleeves and braces fetch trays of tea, children flock to the swingboats.

"You could leave the stalls and the amusement arcades on the beach right through the season in those days," says Stead. "Thirty years ago, no tide ever reached the prom wall. Now every tide does."

The town has suffered serious flooding. Teddy Clark points out the bowling green in front of his Teddy's Amusements arcade ("The Place to Be in Withernsea").

"Before the sea defences, that place used to fill up with water like a swimming pool," he says. "Now we have our Withstock concert there — a Withernsea version of Woodstock, with Les Holdstock, a David Bowie lookalike. Quite famous in this area."

Clark is spending £2 million on a new bowling alley and leisure centre opposite the Withstock site. "People go to Benidorm or Majorca for a sunshine holiday," he says. "But they come to the British seaside to enjoy themselves."

For all the erosion, Withernsea has at least had a chance. Fifty miles up the coast, the elements put paid to Ravenscar before a single deckchair was erected. It was the resort that never was.

Ravenscar is the highest point on the Yorkshire coast. A hundred years ago there were plans to create a Brighton of the north, although cynics privately wondered whether the idea of putting a resort on top of wind-lashed 600ft cliffs, with no beach at the bottom, was inherently flawed. But Henry Pease, a Quaker ironmonger, had a vision.

He planned grass-lined avenues, a marine esplanade and 1,500 building plots packed with villas, small hotels and boarding houses. A railway station had already been built, but Mr Pease didn't take the hint when a gale carried off the waiting room.

Others did. No one invested, the plans were abandoned and Ravenscar, the north's great unbuilt seaside resort, was left high and relatively dry. You can still make out the ghostly outlines of the building plots and the thistle-choked Marine Esplanade. It has the melancholy of Roman ruins.

Ravenscar's main attraction now is the Raven Hall Hotel, reputedly built as a clifftop "retreat" for the demented King George III. It's a comfortable place, with sweeping coastal views and plenty of scope for bracing walks.

It feels pleasantly remote — but not as remote as Spurn, the last outpost of Yorkshire. Spurn redefines remoteness — beyond Hull, beyond Hessle and Wressle, beyond Howden and Hedon, beyond Sunk Island, almost beyond hope.

This lonely spit of land, curving out into the North Sea across the Humber estuary, is formed by sand and shingle washed down from erosion further up the coast. Bits and pieces of Withernsea are scattered all over the place.

Spurn is the thinnest of peninsulas — four miles long but in places only 50 feet wide. It sticks out not so much like a sore thumb as like a long, sore finger, eager to scratch away at Cleethorpes on the far bank.

Every few years the waves pounding the sand dunes sweep away part of the road to Spurn Point, the home of Britain's only full-time lifeboat crew — here since 1807, a community of 30 living 12 miles from the nearest shop, huddled together against winds that can reach 110 mph.

The road is regularly repaired, but marine experts reckon it's only a matter of time before the sea breaches the land. Spurn Point will become Spurn Island and the lifeboat people will be marooned. The shipping forecast is vital listening here.

On a sunny day it can be idyllic, with a great arching sky and the sea shimmering silver on almost every side. Even on a dull day, with grey sea and pearl-barley clouds and the foghorns droning over the mud flats, it has a windswept wildness that lures naturalists from all over Britain.

Couples sit in cars with flasks of tea and sandwiches, watching slow container ships cross the horizon. Men in wellingtons dig for lugworms — or just for the joy of it. The tide slurps and slushes.

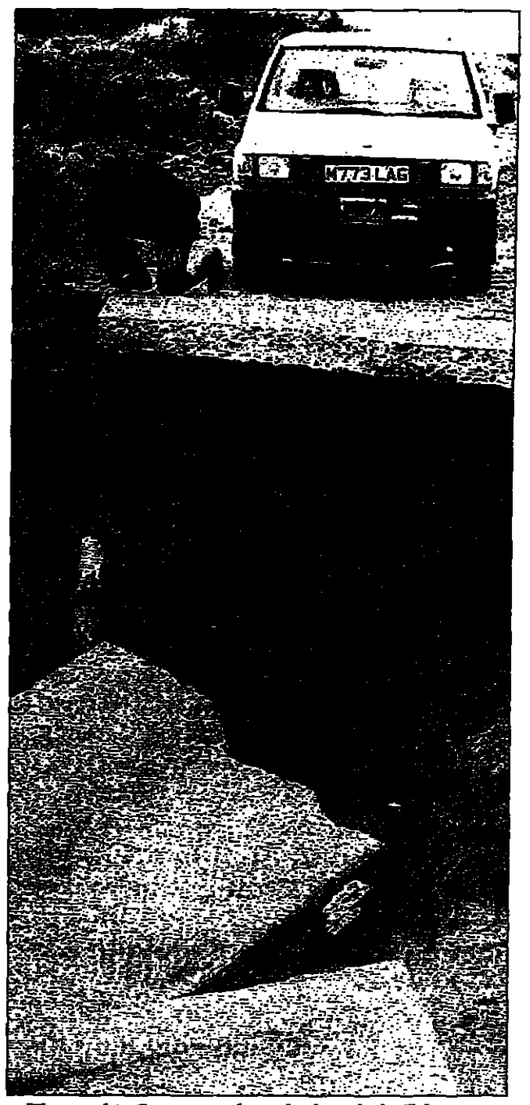
"There's a strong pull to come here," says the natural history writer Roy Crossley, his tripod telescope trained on a chorus line of oystercatchers. "Look through here. Do you see it? A bar-tailed godwit in summer plumage!"

> The sea is 100 yards from the door but is edging nearer

He first visited Spurn in 1950. "In those days it was very isolated indeed. You rarely saw anyone except the postman. These days, if there's a rare bird, people will be down here in a matter of hours." Most call in to see Barry Spence, warden of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Spurn nature reserve. He has lived here since 1964, in a converted army hut 30 yards from the beach. Next door is an ornithologists' hostel called Dunbirdin and an information centre giving pride of place to a pair of washed-up wild ox horns. "Ten thousand years old," says Spence, casually.

"You get the birdwatchers in the spring and autumn," he says. "And the tourists in the summer. They come for the beaches and because it's a curiosity. A lot of them say they like it, but I don't think they'd like to live here."

So just how bleak, how windy, how storm-tossed is it? "Well, before I came here I was on Fair Isle, so I tend not to notice," he says as sea spray splatters the window.

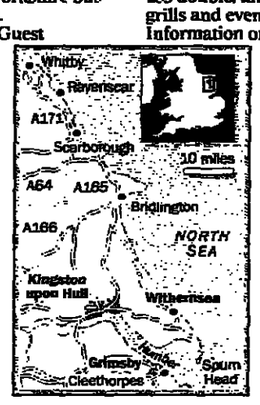


The road to Spurn was breached again in February

CRUMBLING COAST FACT FILE

■ **Withernsea:** By car on the A1033, 20 miles east of Hull. By train to Hull from King's Cross (change at Doncaster or York; rail enquiries on 0345 484950), then half-hourly bus service 76/77 from adjoining bus station (East Yorkshire bus information on 01482 327146). Accommodation: Vista Mar Guest House (01964 612858) offers B&B from £12.50 per person. Commercial Hotel, Queen Street (01964 612184) serves bar lunches (noon-2pm) and evening meals (5.30pm-7.30pm) for around £3.50. Seasiders fish restaurant, Seaside Road (01964 612251) opens 11am-8pm with meals around £4. Tourist information (01964 615683).

■ **Spurn:** Signposted from B1445, 22 miles east of Hull. No public transport. A taxi from Withernsea costs around £12. Accommodation/food: Riverside Hotel at Kilnsea (01964 650646), at the start of the peninsula, charges £20 per night single, £35 double, and serves bar lunches and grills and evening meals at £3.50. Information on Spurn nature reserve from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (01904 659570).



■ **Ravenscar:** By car it is ten miles north of Scarborough, signposted from A171. By train to Scarborough from King's Cross (change at York), then taxi (about £10). Accommodation/food: Raven Hall Hotel (01723 870353) charges from £49.50 per person B&B. Bar lunches (12.30pm-1.45pm) for around £10 and evening meals (7pm-8.45pm) for £18.

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NEW YORK STATE: THE HAMPTONS

Having a ball in high society

PATTI COURVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY



Saturday afternoon entertainment at the Parish Art Museum, all part of the Hamptons season, a social whirl that attracts everyone from tourists to tabloid gossip columnists

Diamonds and a designer dress are *de rigueur* to party in Southampton, says Victoria McKee

Literati and glitterati take note: today is the official start of the Hamptons "season". This is a social ritual played out against the sea and sand dunes of this celebrity-studded string of coastal towns on the South Fork of New York's Long Island, known collectively as the Hamptons. It's one long social whirl from now until Labor Day (the first Monday in September).

"It's worlds within worlds," says veteran Hamptonite Elaine Benson. "The worlds of Hollywood and fashion, the club world, the artists, the writers." Not to mention the media moguls, the doctors, the lawyers, the advertising executives and all the hopeful singles who come to test the waters.

Benson, who runs an art gallery in fashionable Bridgehampton, will tonight host the annual John Steinbeck Book Party, widely acknowledged as the party which marks the start of the Hamptons season.

It is a benefit (as all the best Hamptons events are) for a charity — in this case the John Steinbeck project at Southampton College, supported by the author's widow.

Other highlights include an Artists & Writers softball game (where you can watch Paul Simon and Alec Baldwin play), a Southampton Hospital benefit ball, a gala for the Parish Art Museum and the Hampton Classic horse show.

In recent years, polo (at which local resident Stephanie Powers excels) has been added to the calendar, as have events at the Bay Street Theatre (run by Julie Andrews's daughter Emma Walton with Richard Burton's ex-wife Sybil), as well as assorted Aids and battered wives' benefits. Wine tastings have also taken off, and you can spend a very pleasant evening nibbling free crab canapés while knocking back poolside chardonnays from the Bridgehampton, Sagpond, and Duck Walk wineries.

Confused about how to get in on the party? Events from balls to baseball and "baste-offs" (food fests) are listed in local papers such as *Dan's Papers* (great fun!) and *The Southampton Press*.

Glossy magazines (*Town & Country* for example) also carry Hamptons diaries, and the gossip columnists of the New York tabloids decamp to the Hamptons for the season, keeping you informed of whether Billy Joel is eating lobster at The Laundry, or Kelly (Mrs Calvin) Klein is in the Hampton Classic, or Julie Andrews has just bought a Hamptons' house to be near her daughter.

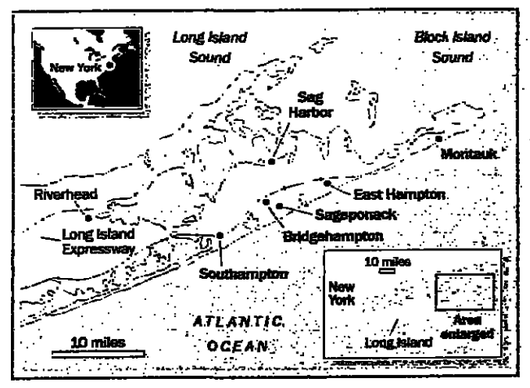
It can be expensive. Benson says: "You can spend £1,000 a weekend just going to benefits, but I prefer to hold out for the small dinner parties." The style of such intimate soirées can vary greatly from Sagaponack (an American Indian name) to Southampton.

"They're only eight miles apart," says Benson, "but in Sagaponack you can go to dinner on a Saturday night in a Shetland sweater and chinos, whereas in Southampton you need a designer dress and jewels. I live in Bridgehampton, between the two, and I have to keep two wardrobes of clothes."

Nightclubs are few and far between, and mostly out on the highways, but you can dance in certain restaurants such as The Wild Rose Café.

I have stayed for many summers with close friends who have a home near Sag Harbor. In fact, I've been going to the Hamptons, girl and woman, for 30 years now and my favourite occupations include mansion-gazing in Southampton's Gin Lane, or window shopping in chic Job's Lane, "antiquing" (a verb in this area) in Sag Harbor, or browsing in "Book Hampton" (East Hampton).

Another plus is that this great escape is only about two-and-a-half hours down the Long Island Expressway (LIE) — longer during Friday rush hour — from Manhattan. JFK is halfway between the two, only an hour-and-a-quarter away. Many of the well-known and well-heeled residents — from Lauren Bacall to Calvin Klein to Edward Albee and Steven Spielberg (whose yacht hovers around Sag Harbor) — come out for the weekends after a hard week in their Park Avenue penthouses and SoHo lofts.



Anxious not to lose their custom, most of the fashionable New York stores promise local delivery, but there's no need — there are shops for everything here, from Saks Fifth Avenue to Caldor's — where you can pick up cut-price beach gear, clothes and household equipment. In addition, the burgeoning "thrift shops" stock second-hand designer clothes that have scarcely been worn, and high quality bric-a-brac.

The Hamptons has a huge variety of bay and ocean beaches, harbours and lakes. If you want to jump the waves (few people surf), go to the vast, sand-duned beaches at Bridgehampton, Southampton or Montauk; if you want calm swimming, water-skiing or yacht-watching, pick the Long Island Sound (bay) beaches such as Long Beach by Sag Harbor.

After swimming you can stop to buy steamers (clams) and tuna steaks, freshly picked corn on the cob (younger and more tender than we're used to in Britain) and mouthwatering blueberry pies from shops and farm stands.

You could also stop for a sunset drink at the Amazon Deck overlooking the yachts in the Sag Harbor Marina before going on to an "off, off Broadway" production at the nearby Bay Street Theater, or to a film premiere at the East Hampton Cinema (site of the Hamptons Film Festival). Alternatively, you could just enjoy cocktails and clams on the outside "deck" every Hamptons house must have (making sure to light insect candles after sunset) while waiting for the barbecue to sizzle.

THE HAMPTONS FACT FILE

■ **Making the most of your stay:** The Hamptons is definitely a place to be a houseguest rather than a tourist, and good hotels are thin on the ground. There are a few exceptions, such as The Maidstone Arms (001 516 324 5006, 207 Main Street, East Hampton), a colonial inn with a good kitchen, great charm, and rooms with continental breakfast from £124 a night; cottages £196; The American Hotel (516 725 3535, Main Street, Sag Harbor), picturesque, Victorian-style rooms from £106 per night; and Gurney's Inn, (516 668 2345, Old Montauk Highway, Montauk), from £193 for ocean views and fitness facilities.

Quaint new B&Bs (really fully fledged hotels with restaurants) have opened to cope with demand.

Try The 1708 House (516 287 1708,126 Main Street, Southampton), 18th-century style with 20th-century amenities, from £99 a night for two people, or Evergreen on Pine, (516 283 0564, 89 Pine Street, Southampton), from £90 a night for two people.

Rooms out towards Montauk, at the tip of Long Island, are generally cheaper than those in Southampton, East Hampton or Bridgehampton. Most hotels have minimum three-night stays over weekends during the season, but some will offer weekly rates.

Renting houses is not cheap. From around £6,000 for the season, you can get a two or three-bedroom house in a modest area with "no amenities" — which means means two or three bathrooms and a gleaming, fully equipped kitchen — pretty good by British standards. To rent a waterfront residence with private pool and maybe a tennis court you have to cough up at least £125,000 for the four months, about as much as it costs to *buy* a tiny Hamptons house.

August, when school's out, is the most expensive month, while rental during the winter months is a huge bargain for those seeking solitude and contemplation, although many New Yorkers weekend there all year long.

If you would like to share, local estate agents may be able to advise you, and the Hamptons and New York City papers are full of small ads for Hamptons shares. Sometimes you can get lucky even as late as July or August.



Better to be a houseguest than a tourist during the Hamptons season

■ **Hamptons essentials:** The annual *The Hamptons Survival Guide* (Philip A. Keith Associates, $7.95) for all-round information on services and events can be ordered in advance (516 726 2541) for £6.50.

■ **Best Hamptons eats for real people:** Coast Grill, Southampton (516 283 2277), casual, bayside dining with simple good cooking; Mirko's Restaurant, Water Mill, (516 726 4444), a tiny gem of a restaurant which reflects its owners eastern European origins; The Driver's Seat, Southampton (516 283 6606) for great burgers, salads; homemade pizzas and entertainment (dancing at the weekends) at The Wild Rose Café in Bridgehampton (516 537 5050).

■ **For posers and celebrity-spotters:** The Laundry, East Hampton, (516 324 3199), a very social meeting spot — good bar, cosy sofas, great soups and local wines.

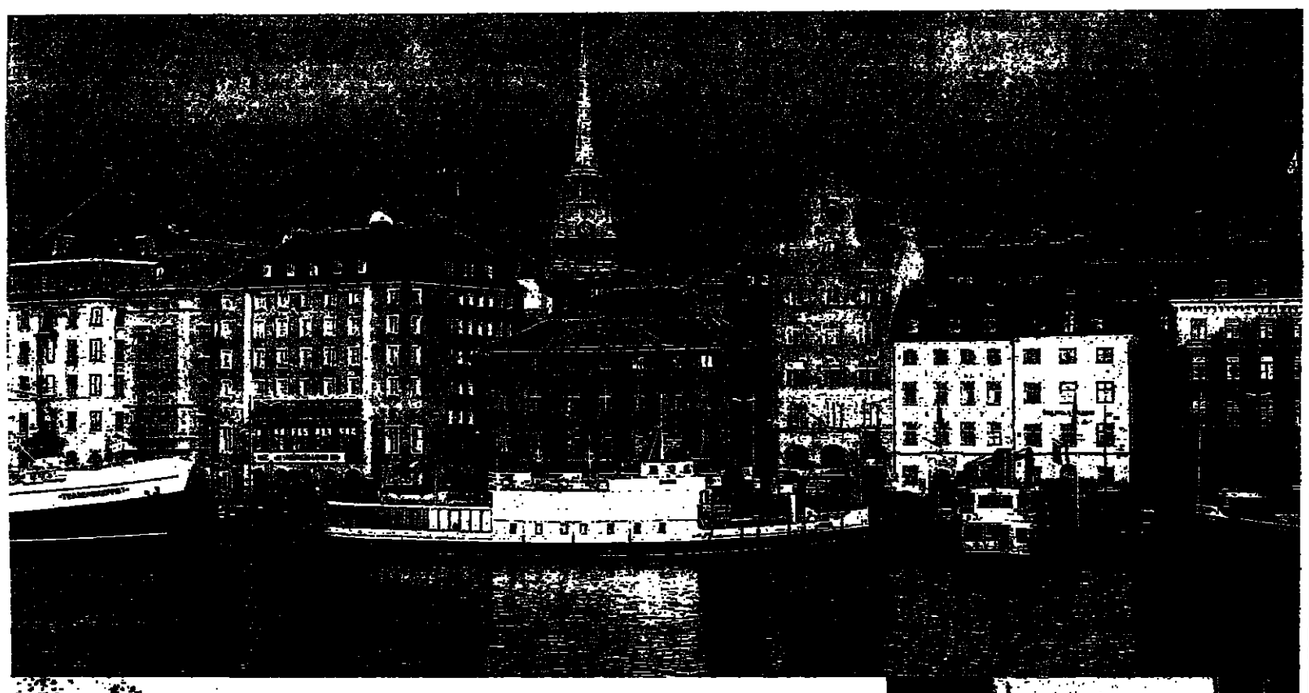
■ **Bars:** Almost all the restaurants above and The American Hotel have good ones, but there's also Bobby Van's, Bridgehampton (516 537 0590) with piano bar and restaurant and, for a night with the "real" people (not a place to go in your designer wear), Murphs Backstreet Tavern in Sag Harbor (516 725 9749).

■ **Real estate agents for rentals:** Allan M. Schneider Associates, Southampton (516 283 7300); Sotheby's, Southampton, (516 283 0600); Bridget Flynn Real Estate, Southampton, (516 283 9119); J.R. Siwicki, Water Mill (516 726 6600).

■ **Tourist information:** Chamber of Commerce, 76 Main Street, Southampton, (516 283 0402), *http://www.southampton.com/chamber*

■ **Getting there:** British Airways (0345 222111) from London to New York JFK costs £444 return until June 11, £566 to September 30. Virgin Atlantic has returns from £400 until June 14, £522 until September 30. From JFK you can catch a cab for about £9 to a coach connection stop at the Freshmeadows Cineplex Odeon, from where the fare to the Hamptons is £13. The luxury Hampton Jitney coach (516 283 4600), with free newspapers and snacks, needs booking in advance. The Long Island Rail Road (516 822 5477) from Manhattan's Penn Station to the Hamptons costs £9 each way, and takes two-and three-quarter hours.

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Sweden

STOCKHOLM

SAS

The following tour operators have package tours to Stockholm: Travelscene, Cresta. For more information about Stockholm: http:/www.stoinfo.se

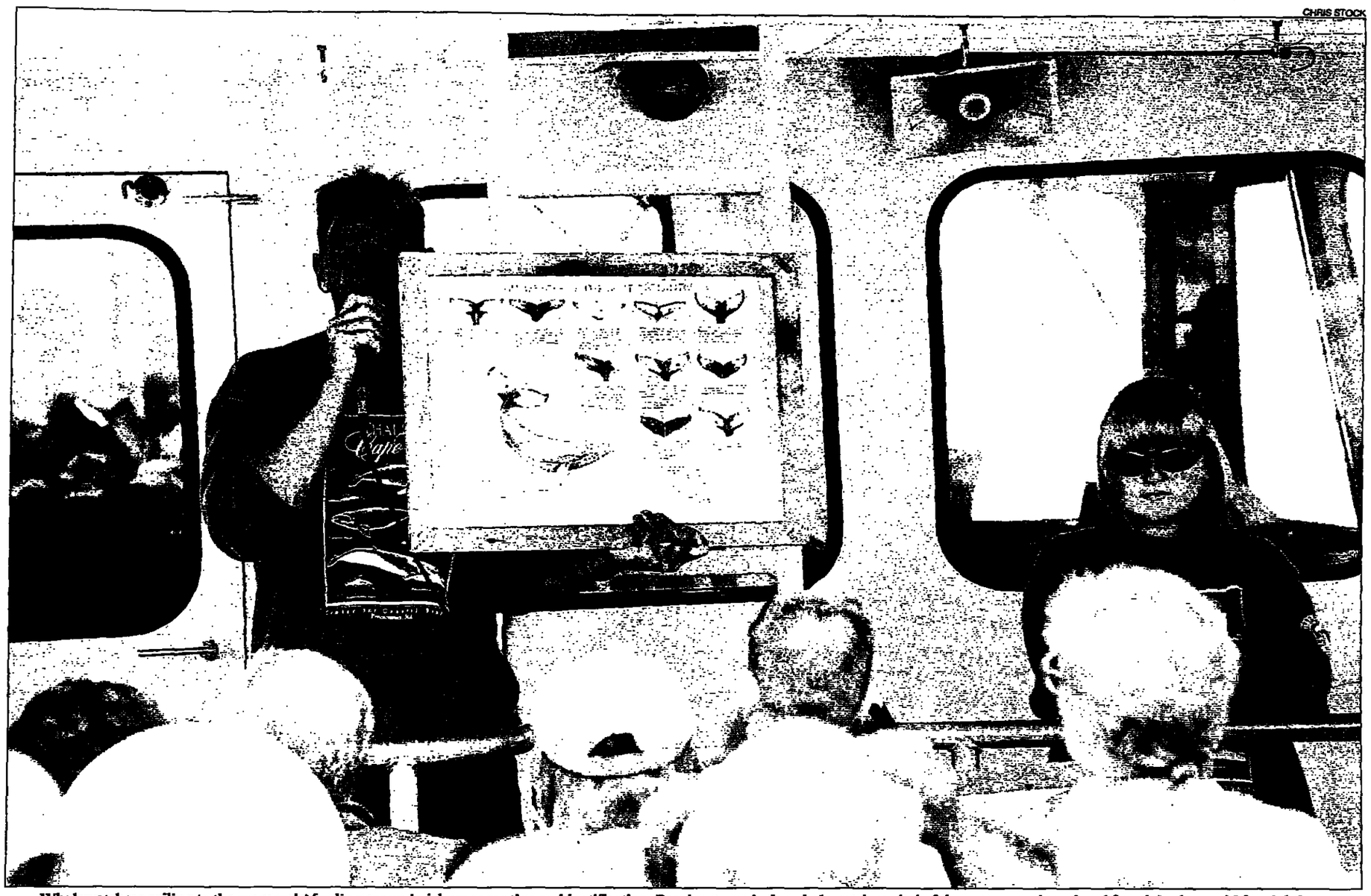
هكذا من الأصل

NEW ENGLAND: WHALEWATCHING

A blind date with Cillas

Gill Upton *is held in thrall by Cillas and her humpback Atlantic family*

CHRIS STOCK



Whalewatchers sailing to the mammals' feeding ground pick up some tips on identification. Provincetown is the whalewatch capital of the eastern seaboard and fourth in the world for sightings

"You're about to see the largest-ever living creature, the 60-tonne whale," promised Peter Trull, the naturalist on board our whalewatch boat. Then came the caveat: "But if we find whales, consider it a privilege." It was the "if" that concerned me.

"Our chances are high," he assured us. It was August, high season for whalewatching, and we'd just sailed out of MacMillan Wharf at Provincetown in Massachusetts — whalewatch capital of the eastern seaboard and fourth in the world for whale sightings.

We were sailing to the whales' major feeding ground at the National Marine Sanctuary, Stellwagen Bank, a 700-square-mile submerged plateau of sand and gravel just seven miles north of the tip of Cape Cod. The Marine Protection Act of 1972, which stopped the killing of whales, makes a sighting more likely. Our captain, Al Avellar, known locally as the patron saint of whalewatching and the owner of the Dolphin Fleet, has been whalewatching here for more than 20 years.

The sea was teeming with plankton and fish, including the 6in sand lances to which whales are particularly partial. They make Stellwagen a vast nutritious broth, and the whales can't get enough of it.

Most North Atlantic whales cruise into Stellwagen in spring. They stay all summer to feed and put on blubber after wintering in the Caribbean, where they mate and breed. One whale, named Trunk, managed the 1,500-mile migration from the Dominican Republic to Provincetown in just 42 days. He was caught on camera at both ends of his journey.

Loitering at the wharf was Captain Aaron Avellar, son of Al. "This season's been the best ever," he boasted. "We've seen ten or 12 humpbacks each trip, sometimes more because there is a lot of food around." Music to my ears.

Stellwagen attracts five species. The humpback, round with long white flippers and bumpy-looking head, is known as the clown of whales for its showing off; the long, sleek finback, the second biggest whale at up to 85ft long; minke, the smallest at a mere 30ft; the rare North Atlantic right whale, which has no dorsal fin and is up to 60ft in length; and flipper, the Atlantic white-sided dolphin.

Whalewatching is a relatively fair-weather pastime, but going out at either end of the season, in April and October, can be chilly. The boats are comfortable enough: warm seats inside, hot and cold drinks, basic breakfast and lunch (hotdogs £1.20), and clean toilets.

Queues for boarding begin early; the crowd was a good mix of children, couples and old timers. A leaflet was handed out, telling us about the trip and about the Center for Coastal Studies, a non-profit organisation dedicated to research, rescue and protection of marine mammals. For more than 20 years it has studied and identified over 500 humpback whales, photographed and named individuals, and tried to develop ways to protect the area.

On the top deck, researcher Peter Trull is in his stride, informing us that "this is not a boat trip but a research tour".

The double-crested cormorants perch impassively on the breakwater. As we chug out to sea, the view of 'P-Town', as locals call it, is dominated by the tall Pilgrim Memorial tower dedicated to the first arrivals from England in 1620. Further out, the geography of the place becomes clearer and you can understand why those pilgrims headed instead to Plymouth, to the southwest. The acres of dunes do not make for good farming.

Trull is giving a layman's guide to Cape Cod. The promontory of land jutting into the Atlantic, with P-Town at its tip, was formed by a glacier 20,000 years ago. We shift in our seats. Very interesting but we want to hear about whales.

Trull hands round a section of a baleen, the series of plates which hang from the upper jaw of a whale and act as a feeding sieve. It's what differentiates humpback, minke, finback and right whales from toothed whales such as the white-sided dolphin, which eats larger fish and chewable squid. A baleen traps and filters hundreds of pounds of fish in just a few gulps.

> A humpback flips its tail in front of us. Such grace, such style. Then it's gone

We learn about the population study of 900 humpbacks, all catalogued and named using the distinctive black and white marking on their *flukes* (tails). We hear the sad story of Long John Silver, renamed Silver after it was discovered she was in calf. The survivor of an accident in which she lost half her tail, she starved to death after getting caught in a drag net, and was washed up on Long Island in 1991.

There are happier tales. The Center disentangles around half a dozen whales each year and most rescues are successful.

But wait, we're slowing down and other boats are in sight. We're here. Sunbathers sit up, books are discarded and seats empty to find a viewing spot along the railings. The air of anticipation is palpable. Conditions are perfect; the sea is flat and glassy.

Noiselessly, a finback breaks the surface, port side. As it is announced over the loudspeaker the boat erupts, and we dash to find a viewing spot. For the next hour or so we seesaw back and forth to get the best vantage point.

To see a creature ten times the size of an elephant gliding apparently effortlessly through the water, and at such close quarters, fairly takes your breath away. After the finback, a humpback flips its tail in front of us. Such grace, such style. Then it's gone.

Trull talks of the greater shearwater, the great diver birds, overhead but nobody takes their eyes off the water. When a leather-back turtle surfaces and Trull's excited voice booms, "that's the first leather-back sea turtle I've seen in 880 trips", we are still not diverted. Trull wants to get closer to the turtle, but we want whales.

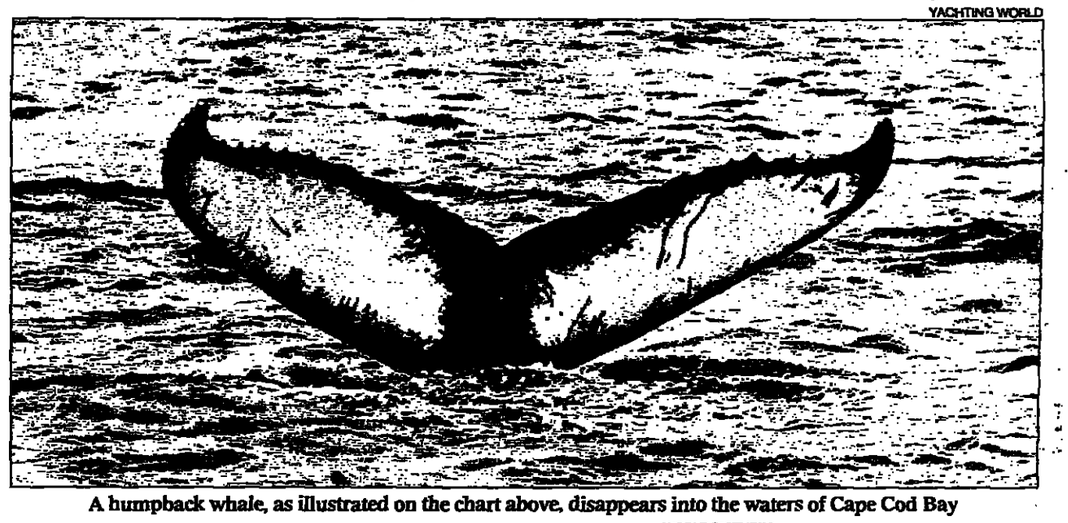
Soon they come in profusion: a humpback breaching 50 yards away, a blue shark, a humpback called Cillas and her eight-month-old calf, a minke and a pair of finbacks and all so close to the boat you feel you can touch them. We are mesmerised.

Nobody wants to leave. The shared experience creates camaraderie. "I didn't expect to see so much," says 26-year-old first-timer Steve Mastronardi. His girlfriend, Sarah Burgess, 24, was bowled over even though she had been before. She plans to bring her parents.

Sixty-year-old Hugh from Boston, who spends his summers in the Cape, is overjoyed. "Last year it was cold, it was choppy and we didn't see many. Today was great."

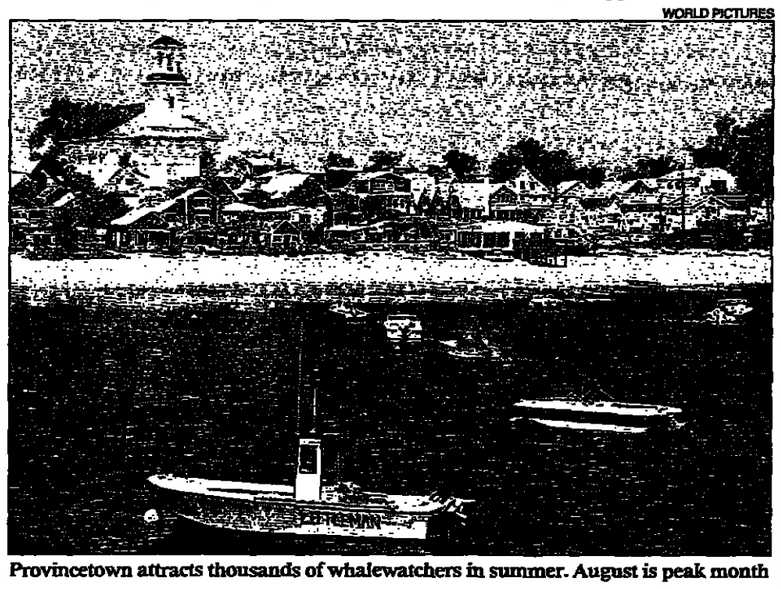
Peter Trull is ecstatic. "It was a highlight of the day seeing the turtle alive, free and roaming. And we saw three species of whale. I consider that unusual for a three-hour trip." To think we used to harpoon these amazing creatures — and that some countries still do.

YACHTING WORLD



A humpback whale, as illustrated on the chart above, disappears into the waters of Cape Cod Bay

WORLD PICTURES



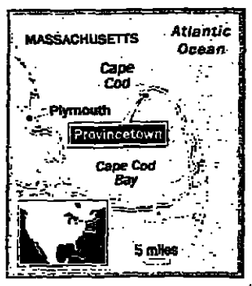
Provincetown attracts thousands of whalewatchers in summer. August is peak month

WHALEWATCHING FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Gillian Upton flew to Boston with American Airlines (0345 789789), which has return flights from London in May for £480. She was driven through the Cape by Joseph's Limousine Service (001 781 396 2500).

Recommended hotels: the John Carver Inn, Plymouth (001 508 746 7100), rooms from £45; the Best Western Chateau, Provincetown (001 508 487 1286), from £96; the Commodore Inn, West Harwich (001 508 432 1180), from £46; the Dan'l Webster Inn, Sandwich (001 508 888 3622) from £85 and the Sea Crest Resort, North Falmouth (001 508 540 9400), from £106. All prices are for one night based on two people sharing.

Osprey Holidays' (0990 605605) New England programme has fly-drives from £737 per person including flight, airport taxes, car, two nights in Boston, three nights in P-Town and two nights in Falmouth (with ferry to Martha's Vineyard).



■ Whalewatching: The season runs from April 18 to October 31. Dolphin Fleet Whale Watch (001 508 349 1900) charges £11 a tour for adults, £9 for children. Layers of extra clothing a must.

■ Other attractions: Plymouth: Mayflower II, replica of the orginal and the Plimoth Plantation, 17th-century living history museum (information for both on 001 508 746 1622). A day trip to Martha's Vineyard (tourist information: 001 508 693 0085), the Clintons' favourite holiday haunt, is a must for sightseeing, shopping, relaxing and antiques hunting.

■ Further information: The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce (001 508 362 3225) doubles as the tourist board. In Britain a free information pack on Massachusetts can be obtained from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism which can be telephoned on (0171-978 5233).

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TONY STONE



Keeping heads above water, would-be swimmers can brave the pool at the Springfield Hotel in Holywell. The Learn to Swim break has a money-back guarantee of success

Learning to stay afloat

MEET other single weekenders on leisure and activity breaks offered by Solo's (0181-951 2811) throughout Britain this spring and summer. If you are one of the many who cannot swim but feels embarrassed to admit it, why not sneak off on a Learn to Swim break (it comes with a money-back guarantee of success). The five-night break is based at the Springfield Hotel in Holywell near Chester, and costs £445 for half-board single-room accommodation and tuition.

If, on the other hand, your idea of fun is to take a safari course through the mud on a Quad bike, manoeuvre a 300hp JCB or drive an ex-military armoured personnel carrier, you could join an Off-Road Adventure based in Northants. Two-night weekends in June and July cost £255 and £235 respectively for single rooms with half-board accommodation, tuition and insurance.

GET BACK to basics on a Welsh "Escape to the Mountains" break run by Acorn Activities (01432 830083), which promises tents but no flush loos. There is lots of walking around Cadair Idris and vegetarian food. "It attracts lots of stressed-out executives who want to put civilisation behind them for a few days," says Charles Cordle, the managing director. The four-night breaks run throughout July and August and cost £150 for full board. Acorn runs more than 150 activity and special interest British breaks. A popular five-night post-Wimbledon Tennis for Improvers break, with four days' tuition at a private club and full-board at Bowens Country House Hotel near Hereford, costs £325.

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Well staged

ENJOY the bright lights of London on a theatre deal launched by shortbreak specialist Superbreak (0161-238 5257). You select tickets from a variety of concerts, plays or musicals, which can range from the latest award-winning *Showboat* to the Rolling Stones at Wembley or a fringe production in Islington. Stay at any one of 157 hotels to suit your budget and dine at eateries, ranging from Planet Hollywood to L'Escargot. Theatre breaks are also offered in cities outside London, based on a further 450 hotels.

Sample packages: best tickets to *Showboat* at the Prince Edward Theatre, a three-course meal with wine at L'Escargot 50 yards away, and a night's B&B at the four-star Green Park Hotel, Mayfair, costs £153 per person based on two sharing, at any time of year.

In Southampton, tickets to *Les Misérables* and B&B at the Hilton National Hotel cost £115.75 per person, based on two sharing a room, until June 6.

Pudding plan

JOIN the Pudding Club and tuck into spotted dick and syrup sponge, sticky toffee pudding or gooseberry fool on a Cotswold weekend at the Three Ways House Hotel in Mickleton near Chipping Camden. The club meets twice a month and guests are invited to sample the pudding buffet as often as they wish and then vote for the "Pudding of the Month".

A two-night break with Sunvil UK (0181-232 9788) for £144 includes half-board, entry to Sudeley Castle and a National Trust ticket to a property nearby.

Sea festival

VISIT Portsmouth, home to *HMS Victory*, the *Mary Rose* and the Royal Navy Museum, for the Festival of the Sea from August 28-31, when more than 1,000 classic and traditional vessels will be moored in the docks and harbour. An 18th-century street market, exhibitions, musical entertainment and night-time spectaculars will add to the carnival atmosphere.

During the festival, YHA Portsmouth (01705 375661) is offering special deals to members: an overnight half-board stay costs £13.50 for under-18s and £16.15 for adults; full-board costs £16.65 and £19.30 respectively. YHA membership is £5 for under-18s, £10 for adults and single-parent families, £20 for two-parent families and any number of children. For other special interest and touring breaks in Britain, contact the YHA (01727 845047).

Best of Bede

STUDY the world of Bede in Northumbria, the great Palladian houses of Norfolk and other architectural and historic treasures on weekends and short breaks accompanied by British Museum specialists. A four-day Northumbrian trip (July 9-12) visits Jarrow, where the Venerable Bede taught, St Cuthbert's Monastery at Lindisfarne, and his final resting place in Durham Cathedral. The price of £495 includes half-board three-star hotel accommodation and coach transport.

The Art and Architecture of Norfolk itinerary includes Holkham Hall with its collection of Rubens, Gainsborough and other old masters; Houghton Hall, home of Robert Walpole, effectively Britain's first Prime Minister, which is now the seat of the Marquess of Cholmondely; and Blickling Hall, a National Trust showpiece. The four-day trip costs £490 for full-board hotel accommodation and visits accompanied by a lecturer. Details from the British Museum Traveller (0171-323 8895).

TACKLE logging or tree felling, make a greenwood chair with a pole lathe and a shave horse, or how to assess woodlands for wildlife. The BTCV (the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) is organising weekly breaks in the north Pennines in August. Pedals and Paths (£249) teaches waymarking and soil erosion control as you cycle the coast-to-coast route linking the Irish and North Seas. From Logs to Legs (£199) shows how craftsmen from the last century worked the native hard woods: Beds and Banks (also £199) teaches river management. Full board is at Denholme Outdoor Residential Centre, south of Hexham. Telephone the BTCV on 01491 824602.

Travel articles in The Times *since January are on our Internet site. See "most recent" links on http://www.the-times.co.uk*

PACK YOUR BAGS

■ Arcadian Hotels is offering Bank Holiday rates at selected hotels. Book a double room for two nights' half-board at Nutfield Priory (01737 822066) in Redhill, Surrey, for £75 per person per night, and get a third night's B&B free. The atmospheric Chilston Park (01622 859803) near Maidstone, Kent, which is lit at night by thousands of candles, is offering 50 per cent off over the Bank Holiday weekend (May 25), so a double room for two nights' B&B is now £27.50 per person.

■ Looking for a new you? Neal's Yard Agency for Personal Development (07000 783704) might have the answer. One week's iyengar yoga holiday, including full board at a vegetarian guesthouse near Bodrum, Turkey, is £255 per person, starting on May 17; £260 per person on May 31. Also available is okido, hatha and astanga yoga, water-colour painting, shiatsu and walking. Flights not included.

■ Flower power is here again at the Chelsea Flower Show, May 19-22. London Travel Service (01992 456177) is offering two nights' B&B at the Kensington Plaza Hotel, a day's entry to the show and return rail travel, prices starting at £159 per person.

■ The Oceans: a Heritage for the Future is the theme of Expo '98, which opens in Lisbon on May 22. Portuguese and Spanish Chapters (0171-722 0722) is offering a cottage in Sintra, near the showground, for £770 per week, including daily maid service and breakfast. The cottages sleep two people; a swimming pool, gym and restaurant are also available.

■ Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400) offers holidays for gourmands. Ten days' self-drive, for example, staying at five top hotels in Brittany and Normandy, including the Château de Loeguenole (which has a Michelin rosette and two Gault Millau), is from £964 per person. The price includes return Portsmouth-Caen ferry crossing for car and two passengers, and B&B.

■ Coriscan and Sardinian specialists Holiday Options (01444 881414) has availability to Corsica on May 17. Seven nights' self-catering for two to four people in Figari, on the southern coast, starts at £259 per person, including return flights from Stansted. Seven nights' self-catering for four people in Calvi starts at £199 per person from Gatwick or Stansted.

■ Fly fishing is back in season (May to October). Lainston House (01962 863588) in Sparsholt, near Winchester, has a few rods on the River Test on Fridays throughout the season at £130 each. Accommodation from £135 per night for a double room.

JOANNA HUNTER

FLYING VISITS

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Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
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London – Barcelona	from £115 Debonair (ex-Luton)	from £154 Debonair (ex-Luton)
Birmingham – Berlin	£119 BA	£508 BA
London – Dublin	£70 BA (ex-Gatwick)	from £129 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Glasgow	from £56.30 bmi (ex-Stansted)	from £158 KLM (ex-Stansted)
London – Krakow	£159 BA (ex-Gatwick)	£626 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Nice	from £118 Debonair (ex-Luton)	from £186 Debonair (ex-Luton)
Manchester – Paris	£113 BA	£382 BA
London – Rome	from £99 Debonair (ex-Luton)	from £186 Debonair (ex-Luton)
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Airline telephone numbers:
British Airways (BA) 0345 222111 · KLM UK 0990 074074
Debonair 0500 146290 · Virgin Atlantic 01293 747747

Notes
* Debonair fares include tax. Other fares shown exclude tax.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares, which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

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Italian mudslides miss Amalfi Coast

Resorts along the Amalfi Coast escaped damage during this week's mudslides in the southern region of Campania, *Tom Chesshyre writes.*

Up to 100 Italians are feared dead after heavy rains caused landslides that swept away houses, apartment blocks and cars in Sarno, Siano and Bracigliano in the province of Salerno, and Quindici in Avellino province.

However, damage was concentrated on inland regions away from the Amalfi Coast's resorts, which include Sorrento, Positano and Amalfi. Train lines and roads from Naples — which has the closest international airport — are clear and operating as usual.

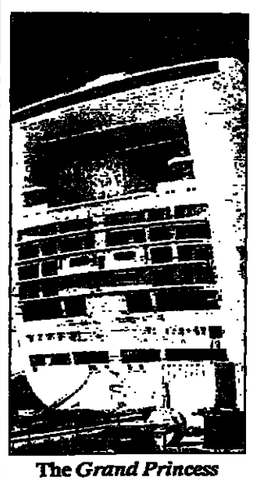
Hundreds of worried holidaymakers called the Italian State Tourist Board seeking advice on which tourist areas had been affected earlier this week. A spokeswoman said: "We've had a lot of calls, mainly from people about to visit Sorrento, the most popular resort with British holidaymakers. All the tourist resorts are fine. There is nothing to worry about."

Tour operators have been reassuring holidaymakers and so far there have been no cancellations — about 190,000 Britons visited the Amalfi Coast last year, making it the number one destination for British tourists in Italy.

Philip Frenguelli, promotions manager for Citalia, which sends 12,000 tourists to the coast each year, said: "It was a bad disaster and very unfortunate, but everything is now under control. The landslides happened a long way from the resorts."

Cruising takes a bruising

Tom Chesshyre reports on a series of storms in the ports



The *Grand Princess*

The fast-growing cruise holiday market received another setback this week with the cancellation of the maiden voyage of the *Grand Princess*, the world's largest cruise ship.

The cruise, due to depart on May 14, was abandoned when owners P&O decided it was not up to standard. More than 2,600 passengers, including 500 Britons, are unlikely to travel for a year as the ship is fully booked.

The cancellation follows two other cruise crises recently. Passengers returning from a three-month world tour on the *Saga Rose*, run by Saga Holidays, said it was "plagued with problems".

The ship departed 36 hours late, missed several destinations, suffered flooding in bedrooms and leaks in the ballroom ceiling.

John and Freda Muir spent more than £18,000 on the cruise. Mrs Muir said: "It was the worst cruise we've ever been on and we've been travelling for over 40 years.

"We are getting on now and this was going to be our last major holiday — we had a terrible time."

Saga is offering passengers free cruises as compensation.

Passengers who had their Thomson Holidays cruise on *Topaz* cut short after three days of an 18-day voyage from Athens to the Gulf of Mexico last month are also angry.

Cabins were not cleaned and food was served late.

Thomson returned its 756 passengers home and offered compensation after realising there were "more than just cosmetic problems", according to a spokeswoman. Two further cruises have since been cancelled until improvements are made.

The industry grew by 25 per cent last year, taking 522,000 passengers. But William Gibbons, director of the Passenger Shipping Association, which represents cruise companies, said: "The industry is not growing too fast. Cruises only make up 3.5 per cent of the package holiday market."

PRAGUE & BUDAPEST

Convenient flight schedules, the refurbishment of hotels and reasonable tariffs in both Prague and Budapest have made possible the combination of these two beautiful cities on the same itinerary

The city of Prague, built along the banks of the Vltava River and on the surrounding hills, has often been described as the 'Hundred Spired Golden Praha', the 'Rome of the North'. It was the chief city of the old kingdom of Bohemia and the cultural centre of Europe in the 14th century, enriched by artists and architects from France, Germany, and Italy. Today, Prague still retains its magnificent 18th-century character, the skyline is a fairytale scenario of domes and spires.

No less a city of spires is Budapest, one of the gracious cities through which the Danube meanders on its way to the Black Sea. From austere Gothic, stately Renaissance and hardly-restrained Oriental decoration to the exuberance of the Baroque, the ancient towns of Buda and Pest recall the influence of past invaders.

Both cities endured nearly 40 years of life behind the former Iron Curtain but have emerged relatively unscathed by the dead hand of dictatorial administration to a new flowering.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Comfort for BA lounge lizards

Steve Keenan reports on how the battle for high-paying frequent flyers moved to ground level this week

DARREN FILKINS



Designer comfort: BA's new lounge at Heathrow where passengers can relax before their flight — but, please, Gold and Silver cardholders only

The service battle in the skies for high-paying frequent fliers came down to earth this week when British Airways opened its new designer lounge for travellers at Heathrow's Terminal 1.

Valued BA customers taking a domestic flight can now choose a good book, glass of wine or a shower when waiting to board.

A spa and head massage service are planned for later this year.

For those seeking an escape from the hassles of everyday working life, mobile phones are also banned in The Sanctuary, a relaxation area in the BA lounge fitted with daybeds, chairs and footstools.

BA says the new lounge is the result of customer surveys. But it also bears more than a passing resemblance to the Clubhouse, the Virgin Atlantic lounge down the aisle in Terminal 3.

There, fêted customers have been able to enjoy a massage or haircut for three years. A library, viewing conservatory with its own bar and food, including toast and dim sum, are also staple fare.

Being Virgin, individual touches include a soundproofed music room, putting green, ski simulator machine and CD-rom games.

A spokesman for Virgin said: "Where we lead, competitors tend to follow."

But a BA spokeswoman insisted: "All aspects of our lounge were put into place after talking to customers.

"We believe our lounge is completely different — it isn't full of gimmicks."

The two-storey lounge is double the size of its predecessor and sweeps away the image of rows of vinyl seats and beige panelling.

Instead, designers were brought in and asked by BA to "create a modern, bright, less formal and more relaxed environment" for travellers, the spokeswoman added.

But while introducing curved bars, furniture and railings, the swish new lounge also reflects the serious attention now being paid to retaining loyalty of its wealthy customers with improved service on the ground as well as in the air.

While BA has 600,000 Executive Club members, the spokeswoman said entry to the new lounge will be restricted to the estimated 30,000 frequent flyers who are holders of Silver and Gold cards.

The Virgin lounge, which seats 150, is for Upper Class travellers, as well as privileged customers of several other partner airlines, including British Midland, Malaysian and Continental.

In total, Heathrow has 30 business lounges catering for CIPs — the airlines' commercially important passengers — and those lucky enough to wangle an invite.

Customers paying top fares are now demanding more style and comfort from the major airlines.

But until the opening of the BA lounge, Virgin had the monopoly on style, with most lounges offering little more than a bland, quiet area to sit, with a free bar, newspapers and cable TV.

Among the few individual touches are those of Japan Airlines, offering rice crackers and three brands of Japanese beer to customers in separate First and Business lounges, and Thai Airways, which flies in fresh purple orchids daily.

American Airlines boasts a lounge with a touch of history — it is designed to replicate a 19th century English manor house. Furnishings include a 1770 Georgian cabinet, Victorian candelsticks and a repro Lutyens chair.

American also features vibrating reclining chairs and showers, while the new BA lounge provides a coffee bar and larder.

Unsurprisingly, the Virgin Clubhouse is still the only one to feature crazy mirrors and a replica of the Mannekin Pis fountain in Brussels.

But now we can't see the opera house

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR in Australia

From the window of my hotel room in Sydney, I have a fabulous view of the harbour. Across the bay is the city's defining image, the white hoods of the Sydney Opera House. Just behind the hotel is Sydney Harbour Bridge, which rumbles above me when I go for a quick dip in the rooftop pool. But to the right, between the Opera House and Circular Quay where the ferries dock, a series of buildings is going up. The one that is almost finished looks like a 15-storey toaster. Other toasters are risingly rapidly in a line that marches down East Circular Quay.

As I walked past the building site I saw that protesters had left graffiti: "More Aussie icons" proclaimed one scrawl. Certainly no one at my hotel, the Park Hyatt, is too happy to see a prized view being rapidly ruined.

However, the controversial development of East Circular Quay is about more than ruined views. It has created a debate about how Sydney presents itself to the world — particularly pertinent when the city is gearing up for the 2000 Olympics. "Sydney is certainly the most beautiful modern city in the world," said John Brown, chairman of Sydney's Tourism Task Force and a former tourism minister in the federal government. "It would be even more beautiful if that building was not there.

"But unless the Government has the courage to pay them to knock it down — which would cost about A$400 million — we are stuck with it."

The toaster contains luxury apartments; a hotel, shops and cafés are planned. But despite bringing jobs for the Sydneysiders and amenities for visitors, the toaster will never be loved. The importance of space around such an iconic building as the Opera House has finally been realised. After all, the Paternoster Square development by St Paul's Cathedral in London is so ghastly simply because it invades the cathedral's space.

Planning authorities and architects charged with developing areas around famous monuments could do worse than learn from Sydney's mistake.

FOOD and drink is allegedly the new rock'n'roll in Sydney. But when I heard that the smartest new eaterie is the MG Garage, I expected beer and fries in an Aussie diner. Silly me. The MG Garage, in Surry Hills, is a sparkling exponent of the "Mediterr-Asian" style of cooking which could be summed up in one dish. "Seared wallaby fillet with a parsnip and potato rösti, beetroot and bush lime sauce". Jolly good it was, too.

And the MGs? Sitting quietly near the bar was a row of new models, which appear on the menu at A$45,000 each. After working their way through an excellent New World wine list, about five customers every week stick an MG on the bill, apparently. Definitely a night for a girl to leave her wallet behind.

THE MG garage does not offer "mashed aborigine" or "cod with aborigine" on its menu, but some restaurants in Sydney do. This is not a virulent form of racism, but the result of incorrectly typing "aubergine" and then spell-checking the menu. I am not keen on Americanisms, but in this case it might be wise to stick to "eggplant".

TRAVELLERS' TIP

TAKE a roll of dental floss with you when you travel. It's very small and light, and not only complements your dental hygene but is also useful to string up your mosquito net; act as a washing line; a fishing rope. You can also use it to repair all sorts of things, for example a broken shoulder strap on your ruck sack. — *Michael Hornickel, St Ives, Cornwall.*

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name and address and day-time telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrasebook of your choice.

Airline criticised for delays

CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS, the charter airline criticised last summer for delays, has come under renewed fire from passengers after technical failure caused a flight from Gatwick to the Algarve to be delayed more than eight hours, *Tom Chesshyre writes.*

Passengers complained they were not updated and were not offered sufficient refreshments.

A spokeswoman for Caledonian Airways said two new standby planes have since been introduced to prevent future delays. "We are trying very hard to improve our record this summer," she said.

SIMON GROSSETT



Gill Williams at the start of her Canadian adventure

A great coast to coast challenge

CHARLES DUTOIT, renowned conductor of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, will swap his baton for a pair of good walking shoes later this week when he spends an afternoon acting as my tour guide to Montreal.

Monsieur Dutoit is one of a string of enthusiastic Canadians helping me on my coast-to-coast sprint from Halifax in eastern Canada to Vancouver in the far west.

It's all part of the Cross Canada Challenge. I'm competing for *The Times* against several other travel writers in a challenge set by the Canadian Tourism Commission and Air Canada. We've been given two weeks and a £1,000 budget, excluding our international fares.

It's less a race than an obstacle course. I must stay in a French region, meet indigenous tribespeople, cross mountains, forests and great plains. Part of the challenge is to visit a live music event, which is where my conductor will come into his own.

My first stop was Peterborough, back in England. I'd spent days struggling to put together a complicated itinerary across an entire continent. Then I gave up and called in the experts. This is supposed to be an initiative test and nothing in the rules said I couldn't use a travel agent, so I went to Thomas Cook which put together a tailor-made holiday. The challenge rules demanded at least six different types of transport so we used planes, trains, automobiles — and a whole lot more. A helicopter will take me high into the Rockies to hike between alpine lodges. Sightings of caribou and elk are promised. Heli-hiking usually starts in June so I'm walking through the mountains out of season, just about the time when the bears are waking up hungry after their winter nap.

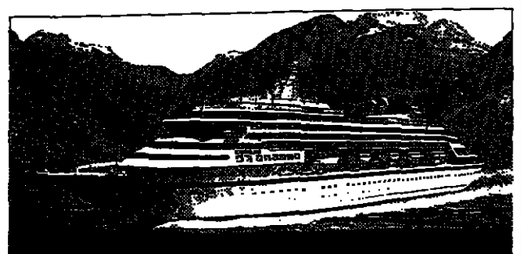
There'll be a glacial landing in a float plane at Squamish in British Columbia, a gondola ride up Sulphur Mountain and a pleasure boat cruise across Maligne Lake. I'll use Shanks's pony, a mountain bike and saddle up a western horse for my own version of the Calgary Stampede.

Nights will be spent travelling, leaving the days free for adventure. I'm booked on the sleeper from Halifax to Montreal and will spend five evenings driving a motor home between Banff and Jasper.

I'm hoping to join a white-water rafting trip if the snow melt permits or travel down river by kayak. I'm looking forward to meeting the First Nation people of western Canada, less so to flying under the Capilano Suspension Bridge.

The idea of the challenge is to show the diversity of holidays on offer in Canada. These are just the scheduled plans — I'm sure there'll be plenty of surprises. Already, I've found out its Lobster Week in Montreal so I've booked a table for myself and my musical guide.

■ *Find out how Gill Williams gets on later this month.*



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Ashore, we will see the major sights, including the fabulous collection at the Armoury Museum in Moscow's Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery and the incomparable Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. For many a highlight will be the visit to Tchaikovsky's home at Klin.

The combination of music, history and art, together with an insight into the modern Russia of today and the momentous changes which are taking place, make for an all encompassing trip.



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with John Amis & 'Opera Interludes'

AN 11 DAY MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH RUSSIA FROM ST PETERSBURGH TO MOSCOW BY RIVER, CANAL AND LAKE ABOARD THE MS KRASIN

27th September to 7th October 1998

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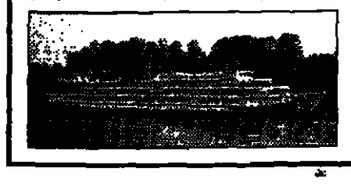
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This sleek, modern river-cruise vessel was built in Germany in 1989 and is under a long term charter to an American based company. Unlike many river vessels in Russia, the Krasin is only available to the UK and USA. English is the only language used on board, thereby avoiding endless announcements in other languages. The vessel was completely refurbished in 1995 with quality imported furnishings. The public rooms include three lounges, bars and a splendid concert hall.

There is accomodation for up to 250 passengers and all cabins have outside views, shower and toilet.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to St Petersburg. Depart in the morning by scheduled flight. Drive to MS Krasin and embark. Welcome drinks party with music by a balalaika quartet.



Day 2 St Petersburg. Morning city tour on the trail of the great composers including the homes or memorials of Tchaikovsky, Glinka and Rimsky-Korsakov. After lunch visit St Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress where the tour will end with a specially arranged Bell Concert. This evening the theatre in the Hermitage has been privately hired for a ballet performance.

Day 3 St Petersburg. Drive to Pushkin, the magnificent rococo palace designed by Rastrelli. Afternoon visit to the Hermitage, followed by a reception at the Yussoupov Palace and a performance by the St Petersburg Opera Company.

Day 4 Svir Stroy. Cruise Lake Ladoga. In the afternoon stop at the charming riverside settlement of Svir Stroy. Weather permitting we will have a picnic (shashlik). Concert on board by 'Opera Interludes'.

Day 5 Kizhi. Cross Lake Onega to Kizhi, an enchanting island. Morning visit to see the 18th century, 22-domed wooden Church of the Transfiguration, constructed without the use of nails. Afternoon cruising. Concert on board by 'Opera Interludes'.

Day 6 Goritsy. Sail to the lovely town of Goritsy for an afternoon visit which will include the Kirill Beloserk Monastery.

Day 7 Yaroslavl. Founded in the 11th century by Prince Yaroslavl the Wise, we will see the 13th century cathedrals and an elegant rotunda. Concert on board by 'Opera Interludes'.

Day 8 Uglich. Sail along the Volga to Uglich. A delightful 'Golden Ring' city. The view of the blue cupolas, domed with golden stars of the Church of St Dmitry on the Blood is a magical sight as we approach the city. See the Kremlin and the Palace of Tsarevich Dmitry. Evening concert by 'Opera Interludes'.

Day 9 Moscow. After lunch on board drive to Klin for a visit to Tchaikovsky's home. Guided tour, followed by a piano recital and tea with Russian pirozhkis. Return to Moscow for dinner, followed by a performance by Vadim Soudakov's Classical Choir at the Red Army Cultural Centre.

Day 10 Moscow. Morning visit to the Kremlin including the Armoury Museum and the Cathedrals of the Annunciation, the Assumpuon and the Archangel Michael. Afternoon free. Optional visit to the Bolshoi Theatre.

Day 11 Moscow - London. Disembark after breakfast. Morning city tour including the Tretyakov Gallery. Transfer to the airport for scheduled flight to London.

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based on double occupancy

Lower deck	£1595
Main deck	£1680
Upper deck	£1780
Boat deck	£1880
Deluxe suite	£2680
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Price Includes: Economy class flights, 10 nights aboard the MS Krasin on full board, shore excursions, entrance fees, specially arranged music programme on board and ashore (except optional Bolshoi visit and entrance to the cathedrals in the Moscow Kremlin), receptions, local taxes, port taxes, transfers, UK and Russian departure tax, local guides, Guest Lecturers.
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A Don Manuel ice-cream



MECKY FOGELING

Mérida, Venezuela, where the streets are as steep as those in San Francisco, is a modern university town and a favourite spot for honeymooners. It is also the northern gateway to the Andes

And do try the sardine flavoured ice-cream

Dominic Murphy explores the exotic tastes and tranquil scenery of Venezuela

If cod and chips is a marriage made in heaven, sardines and ice-cream has to be the combination from hell. Or so I thought until I met Don Manuel, a slight, middle-aged man who makes a living out of weird-flavoured ice-cream. Kinder people might describe what he does as innovative. I could only think of it as a flair for terrible taste.

Don Manuel's ice-cream parlour, in Mérida, Venezuela, is in the *Guinness Book of Records* for having the most varieties in the world. His repertoire extends to 648 flavours, including sardine, shrimps, chicken and (simply) "meat". I had arrived in this pleasant mountain town after three weeks on the sweltering Caribbean coast, where a cool, sweet dollop of ice-cream was a treat worth killing for. Now, in the crisp upland air, the idea had lost some of its appeal — especially if it came tasting of fish. But curiosity got the better of me: hardly had I set foot in Mérida than I found myself drawn to the Don's Heladeria Coromoto.

Mérida is a modern university town, a favourite holiday spot for Latin honeymooners and the northern gateway to the magnificent Andes mountains. It is also an eccentric place. Huge, *Kojak*-era cars grumble up and down its hilly streets as though it were San Francisco. A statue of Charlie Chaplin stands, inexplicably, in a small plaza outside the tourist office. The banks open at sensible times by South American standards, but knowing when to change cash requires a timetable. As for buying a midday meal, forget it. Most of Mérida's cafés close for lunch (the owners go for siestas).

Beside all this, then, Don Manuel and his bizarre ice-cream shop are quite at home. Dotted around the Coromoto are newspaper articles, photographs and trophies that testify to his quirky fame. Behind the counter, one entire wall is taken up with the gigantic menu — a disconcerting reminder that you are in for more than a regular raspberry ripple.

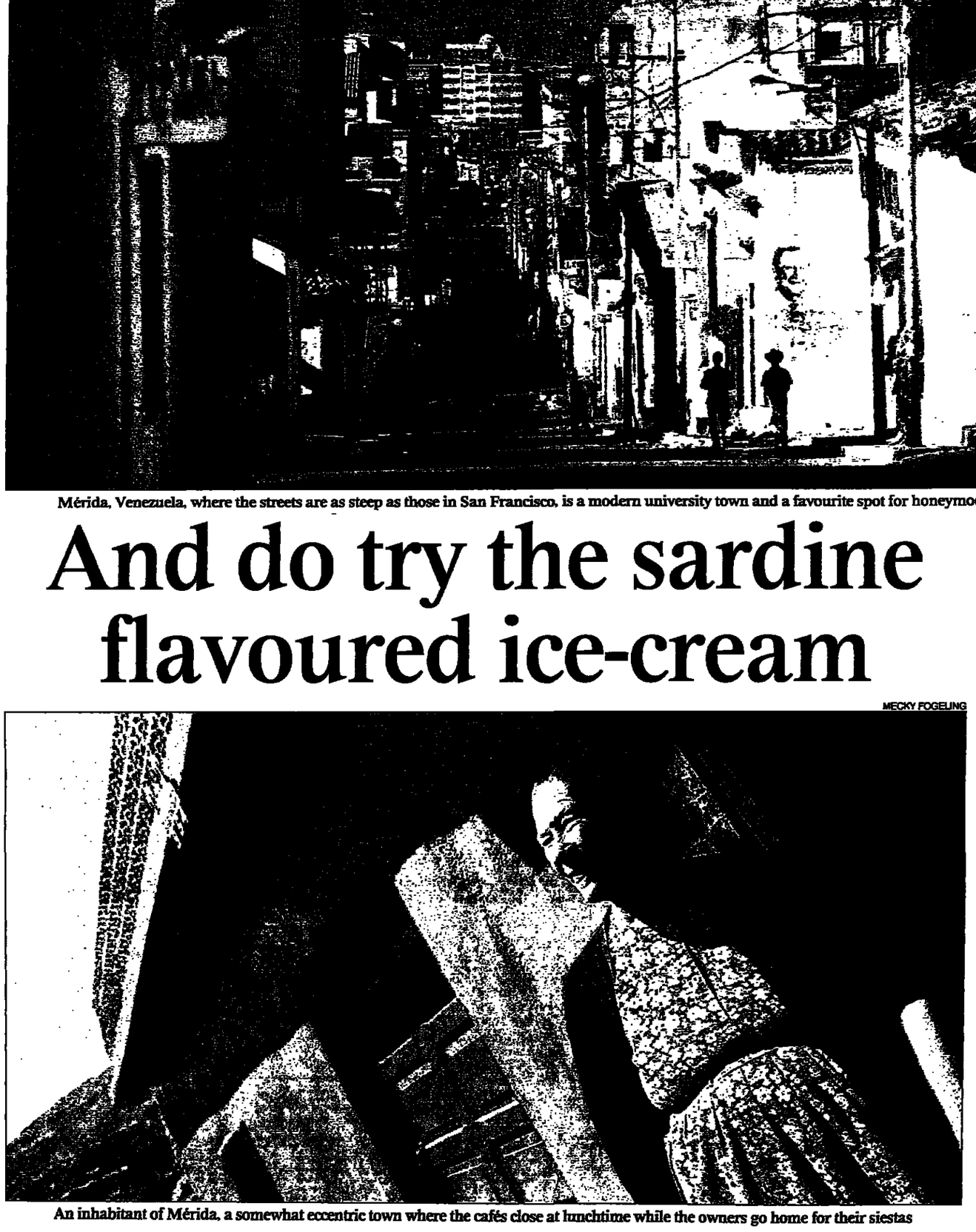
Don Manuel — or Manolo da Silva Oliveira — set up the parlour in 1981. "I was watching a television programme about all the things you can mix avocados with," he said. "So I thought, why not try them with ice-cream?" Since then, he has taken novelty food to new extremes: he claims to invent a flavour every week.

The most popular of Don Manuel's unique creations — including garlic, rose and spaghetti — sit alongside ice-cream staples such as chocolate chip, vanilla and rum. If this were not enough to kill any appetite, at another counter there is a selection of what he calls his "unusual" varieties, which he changes around every day.

As an hors d'oeuvre, I tried the rose flavour (like frozen aftershave, not that I've ever tried it) — and the spaghetti (watery, with chewy lumps that I hoped were pasta). But I could not be tempted by the sardine and the thought of the *pabellón criollo* — a traditional dish of meat, beans, cheese, rice and banana — almost made me gag. If my main course of strawberry and vanilla was unimaginative, at least you could say it was edible.

While there is a touch of the ridiculous about Manolo's curious establishment, there is nothing so quirky about the countryside, which is sublime. Venezuela has something for every explorer's palate: the vast Orinoco delta, Angel Falls (the tallest waterfall in the world), the table-top *tepui* mountains; the wildlife-rich Llanos (the vast plains in the centre of the country); the Amazon . . .

Then, of course, there are the Andes. Mérida is the climbing and hiking capital of Venezuela. To the west rises the majestic 16,000ft Pico Bolívar — named after Simón Bolívar, the country's favourite son and "liberator" of South America. You can climb this as a superb introduction to a mountain range that stretches thousands of miles south to Chile. Or you can, like I did, opt for a more modest alternative and wander the beautiful High Andes that surround it.



MECKY FOGELING

An inhabitant of Mérida, a somewhat eccentric town where the cafés close at lunchtime while the owners go home for their siestas

I left Mérida early one morning for the remote mountain hamlet of Los Nevados. This is a five-hour walk from the top of the town's *teleférico*, the highest cable car in the world. To get the best of the scenery, you should take the earliest cable car around 7am. In the afternoon, the mountains often cloud over.

As our cabin clunked its way to the top, I could sense the air thinning. By the time we arrived at the Loma Redonda station (12,500ft), altitude sickness had kicked in and I felt as though I had drunk too much the night before.

From here, it was a short but strenuous climb to the pass, with my feet behaving like lead weights in the thin air. To the left, the views of the mountains around the snowy crown of Pico Bolívar were a welcome distraction from my height-induced hangover. Above and to the right, a menacing wall of rock and scree watched my deliberate, breathless trudge to the pass.

At the pass, all was forgotten as I began the downhill walk to Los Nevados. In four hours I passed through the treeless páramos, dotted with the failing blooms of the otherworldly *frailejónes*, which shoot up a spike of yellow flowers once a year, through trees dripping with Spanish moss in the cloud forest and into the steep upland pasture surrounding the hamlet.

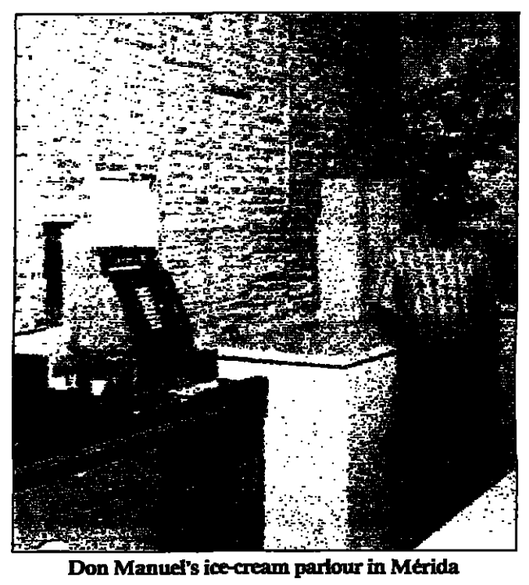
A remarkable thing about the Andes in Venezuela is the way you can explore the mountains in relative safety. The paths link remote settlements, so even with the unpredictable weather you are unlikely to come to any harm. And compared to other places on the continent it is a breeze: in the remote mountains of Guatemala it is best to take an armed "guide", while in Colombia you risk stumbling into a local civil war.

Los Nevados itself was on a bluff above a steep narrow valley. Its terracotta roofs, whitewashed walls and fertile, sloping fields looked like a quieter version of the mountains of Andalucia. Save for the unlikely arrival of a helicopter, you were at least a day from civilisation.

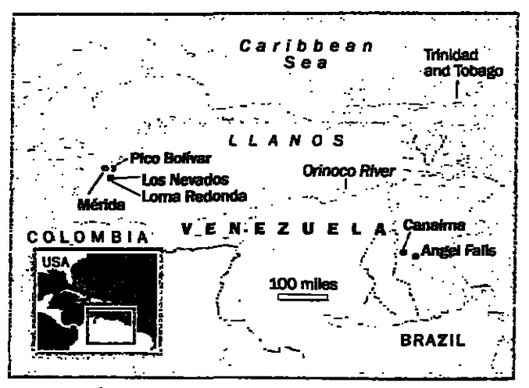
Naturally, Los Nevados offers little in the way of entertainment. You can walk the steep pathways leading out of the hamlet, read or sit and look at the views, and that's about it. Every day I ate the same things — potato and egg soup followed by a powerful smoked cheese that smelt of donkey (not the most appetising of dishes). At night, I drank the local *aguardiente* liquor to fend off the cold and slept in guesthouses (costing no more than £5 a night).

During my week-long exploration, I began to love this life of tranquillity, the early morning yodels of the farmers across the valleys and my forays into the surrounding mountains. But I also began to crave something other than broth and cheese with a whiff of the stable.

I began to look forward to returning to Mérida — and, one night, I think I even dreamt of sardine-flavoured ice-cream.



Don Manuel's ice-cream parlour in Mérida



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VENEZUELA FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) has flights from Heathrow to Mérida from £552 until the end of June, and from £602 from July to December.

Last Frontiers (01844 208405) has a two-week tour taking in the Andes, the Llanos and the Caribbean coast for £2,040; return flights, transfers, most meals and accommodation included.

Hayes & Jarvis (0181-222 7844) has a week's B&B tour from £1,836 until June 30; return flights, transfers and accommodation at "medium-class" hotels included. Two nights are spent in Mérida, and the trips also take in Angel Falls and Caracas.

Other operators include Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) and Geodyssey (0171-281 7788), which organises trekking trips in the Andes.

■ Visa requirements: No visas needed by British passport holders if arriving by air and staying less than 60 days.

■ Medical requirements: Typhoid, polio, tetanus and hepatitis A inoculations recommended. Yellow fever and malaria protection also advised if visiting the rainforest.

■ Reading: *Guide to Venezuela* (Bradt, £12.95); *The South American Handbook* (Footprint Handbooks, £22.99) has a good section on Venezuela; *The General in his Labyrinth* by Gabriel Garcia Márquez (Penguin, £6.99), an historical novel about Simón Bolívar; *Señor Vivo and the Coca Lord* by Louis de Bernières (Minerva, £6.99), evocative descriptions of South American scenery.

■ Hiking trips: There are several excellent tour operators in Mérida, based around Plaza Las Heronias.

■ Ice-cream: Heladería Coromoto, Avenida 3, Independencia No. 28-75, Plaza El Llano, Mérida.

■ Best time to go: Between December and April — it is neither too hot nor too wet.

■ Tips: Take warm clothes (it can get cold on mountains). Drink bottled water and don't brush teeth in tap water (said to be clean, but I didn't risk it). Take a back-up supply of US dollars in small notes (useful if you can't find somewhere to change travellers cheques, which should be in dollars as sterling is not as well recognised). Try to allow some time for visiting the Caribbean beaches.

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RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



Hollywood's image: Walter Matthau as a swashbuckling pirate, complete with cutlass

SYGMA



Today's reality: An armed pirate in the Philippines which, together with neighbouring Indonesia and Thailand, is a piracy blackspot

Modern piracy not so yo-ho-ho

Andrew Eames finds robbery on the high seas is still big business

The Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) in Kuala Lumpur has just received a fax from the Italian embassy in Tokyo. Minister Counselor Gherardo La Francesca is worried about relocating his yacht to the Malacca Straits via the Philippines. The advice he gets by return could be paraphrased as: "I don't think you want to do that, mate."

Similar advice is offered for many other piracy blackspots, especially the coasts of Indonesia, Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India, which accounted for more than half the world's reported piracy in 1997.

Even Europe is not immune: Albania, for example, has provided several incidents of piracy. In September 1996 Kent businessman Keith Hedley was shot dead on his yacht by Albanian thieves at Gouvia, Corfu.

In May last year a Welsh couple sailing a charter yacht in the narrow channel between northern Corfu and Albania were robbed by four bandits armed with assault rifles and grenades. And Italian police have warned of piracy in the Straits of Messina following the disappearance of a yacht and its four-man crew and an attack on the French six-woman crew of a yacht in Sicilian waters.

Piracy in European waters does not compare with the ruthless and violent activity further afield. Only last month the *Petro Ranger*, an oil tanker carrying 11,000 tonnes of diesel oil and kerosene worth almost £1 million, disappeared without trace in the South China Seas. Piracy is suspected and vessels and aircraft from Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Australia are searching for the craft and its 22-man crew.

The Philippines is a "hotbed", writes the PRC's information officer, with pirates targeting all types of ships, using firearms, knives and machetes. And as for Indonesia — "do not enter or anchor in Indonesian waters for sheltering purposes". The advice ends by recommending the placing of a "good, reliable, vigilant and, if possible, armed guard on deck".

Sig. La Francesca happened to have chosen the two most pirate-infested archipelegos in the world for his sailing holiday, but these days shipping is increasingly under threat wherever it goes. There were 229 reported attacks in 1997 — more than twice the number of attacks at the beginning of the 1990s. And, more worryingly, the violence used in these attacks is increasing even faster. Last year's tally of 51 deaths is double the figure for the previous year. According to these statistics, if you do get boarded by pirates, you and your crew have a 30 per cent chance of being killed.

South-east Asian waters account for nearly half the attacks. While most of the targets are cargo-carrying ships, yachts have no immunity. In June 1997 the ironically named *Got-Cha-Covered* was held up off Papua New Guinea by seven men with two guns, and in July a German yachtsman was severely injured by pirates with knives while riding at anchor in Jakarta Bay.

All these incidents are monitored by the PRC. Maps on the office walls are pimpled with red pins. There's even one right in the middle of South America. "Ah, yes," says manager Stephen Saville. "People always comment on that." The pin, he explains, represents the *Rio Amazonis*, a passenger ferry which was heading up the Amazon in Peru when pirates with guns boarded via a galley window. Happily, no one was killed.

Attacks on passenger vessels are infrequent. Cargo ships with skeleton crews and safes full of cash are easier targets. Passengers are a liability — and are more likely to demand that the authorities do something afterwards.

Take the example of the most significant recent pirating of a passenger vessel, the jetfoil *Guia*, which was on its way back from Macau to Hong Kong with 129 passengers — mostly weekend gamblers — on board. Gunmen collected £1 million in cash and a huge haul of valuables before diverting the *Guia* to the Pearl River in China. Following an outcry, the ringleader has since been caught and sentenced to death.

Compare this to the poor old *Petrobulk Racer*, trading in Indonesian waters. British captain Ian Davis reports that he was boarded three times last year. On the most recent occasion, the pirates were wielding 18-inch "sword-like blades". Captain Davis is getting increasingly alarmed, but he fears no attempt will be made to track down the pirates until one of the crew is killed.

Much of this type of piracy takes place near land, under cover of darkness. The pirates could be opportunist fishermen with grappling irons — or corrupt officials. There's a "very popular rumour" — Saville's description — that one of the active units in Indonesia is a customs patrol trying to supplement its income. Nor are they particularly discreet about it: a ship that suffered a minor looting of paint and rope later reported being given the opportunity to buy it all back from the local customs warehouse.

But opportunists are less dangerous than a speedboat full of armed dissidents by the shores of an unstable state, who are likely to attack with the same level of violence they need to survive on land.

British Merchant Navy officer, Deborah Harrison, 28, was shot and wounded in crossfire between police and the pirates who had boarded and robbed the Shell tanker *Isomeria* in Santo harbour, Brazil in January. Two pirates were killed.

In September last year, the cargo ship *MV Cordiality*, loading minerals off the Sri Lankan coast, got a distinctly un-cordial welcome from boatloads of Tamil Tigers firing rocket-propelled grenades. The Tigers were prevented from boarding by the swift intervention of the Sri Lankan navy, but the *Cordiality* was caught in the crossfire of the gun battle, its engine room caught fire and 33 people were killed, including five crew and shore personnel.

These crimes are far from the "yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" perception of pirates, and the booty they're seeking can be equally untraditional. The bulk carrier *Kenmare* was boarded off the Ivory Coast early in the year by four pirates with knives, who threatened the captain and stole ... two ropes.

"Paint and rope are common targets," agrees Saville, often because the paint and rope lockers are easily accessible from the deck. The simple fact is that many are driven to piracy by poverty, particularly in times of poor harvest or thin fishing. Large numbers of these paint-and-rope incidents go unreported because captains fear bureaucratic delays.

At the other end of the scale is the big-business version of piracy — the hijacking of whole ships. This is a particular focus of the International Maritime Bureau in London, of which the KL centre is a subsidiary. Hijackings are usually done either with the crew's connivance, or with a pirate crew put aboard and the real crew set adrift on liferafts.

The captured ship's cargo is quickly sold, the ship renamed and supplied with forged paperwork, and the supposed owners set about touting for cargoes from "offices" which are often just a room in a hotel.

Once the ship has been used for trade a few times it can be abandoned or sunk. Most of these phantom ships are in Asia, and personnel from the KL office are regularly out chasing their shadows in and out of the local ports.

Although it has no official powers, the PRC has useful contacts — and knows how to make plenty of noise. Saville reckons its biggest success to date has been rehabilitation of the Malacca Straits.

In the early 1990s the Straits were dreaded by sea captains; today they are rigorously patrolled, their controlling authorities goaded into action by widespread negative publicity.

Reliable informants are essential to the operation's success. Saville had just returned from a small hotel in Indonesia, where he had taken a pirate out to lunch. It was an amicable enough occasion — "He was actually quite a nice man," says Saville — although he's not sure yet whether one lunch will be enough to turn the poacher into a gamekeeper's assistant.

As general advice for holidaymakers afloat, Saville recommends locking everything on board, keeping a watch in vulnerable areas — flashing a powerful torch is often enough of a deterrent — and not trying to be a hero. After all, he says, "who wants to be stabbed over paint and rope?"

POINTS ABOUT PIRATES

■ The Piracy Reporting Centre is manned day and night for everyone, from yachtspeople to supertanker captains. It gives advice about potential dangers on different routes. Helpline numbers in KL are 00 603 201 0014, fax 603 238 5769. The International Maritime Bureau in the UK is on 0181-591 3000, fax 0181-594 2833. In addition to consulting the IMB, travellers venturing off the maritime beaten track should talk to the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit (0171 238 4503/04).

■ Andrew Eames travelled to Kuala Lumpur with *Kuoni (01306 740500), which offers five nights* B&B in the Shangri-La Hotel and flights with Malaysian Airlines from £813 per person. Kuoni also offers three nights in Kuala Lumpur and five in Penang from £539, including flights, until June 15.

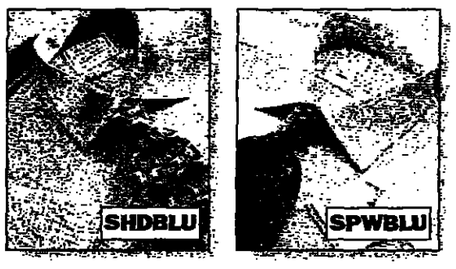
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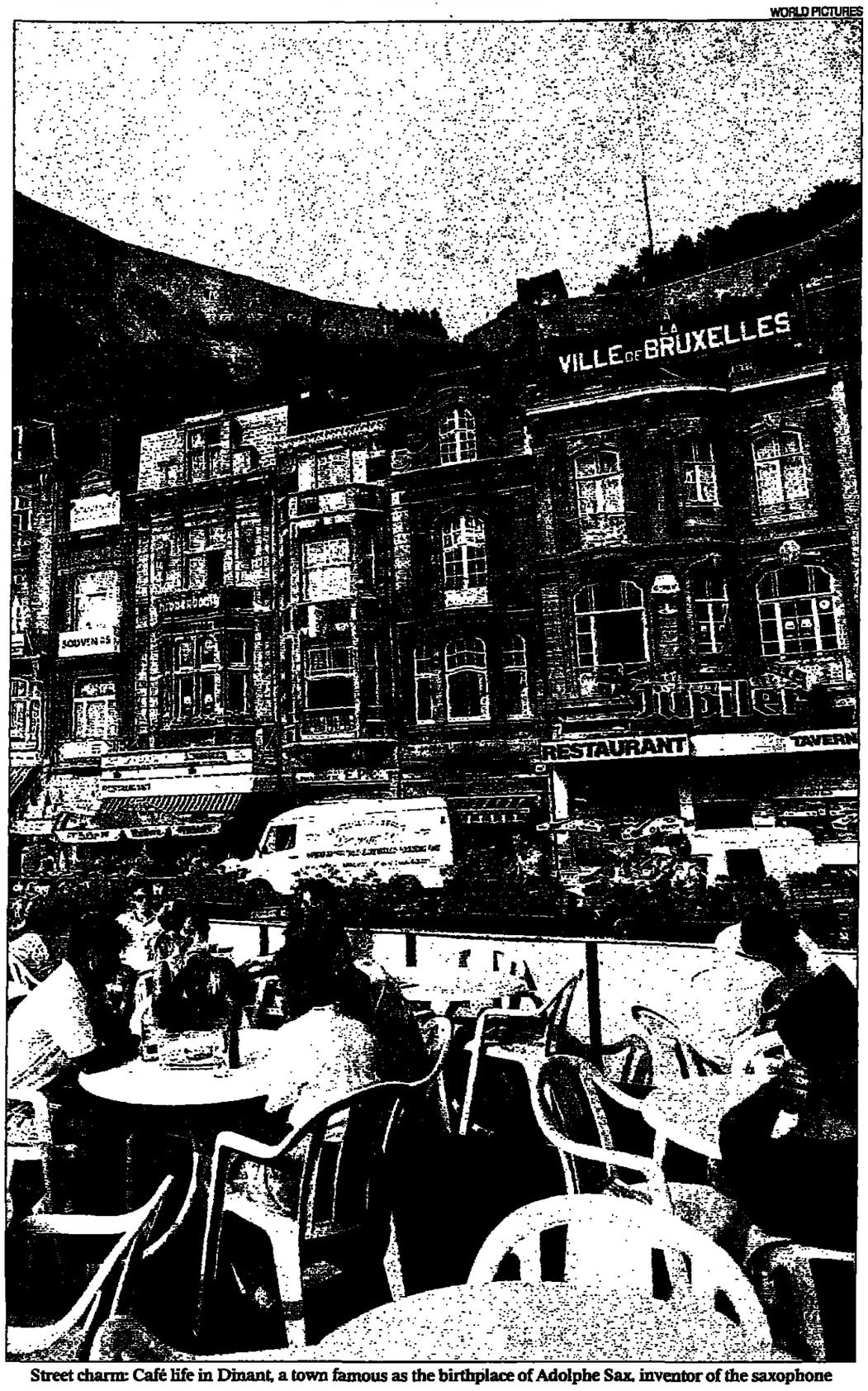
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WORLD PICTURES



Street charm: Café life in Dinant, a town famous as the birthplace of Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone

Food for thought in the Ardennes

Robin Neillands and his wife enjoy an unexpected tour *gastronomique* in a hidden corner of Belgium

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a man in a bad temper must be in want of a good lunch. The bad temper came from a morning trying to make sense of my Belgian road map, but at least a good lunch was on the cards; the Belgian Ardennes may offer some confusing roads, but the food hereabouts is superb.

The object of this journey was to explore one of the lesser-known corners of Europe. The Belgian Ardennes lie just east of the German border, south of the River Meuse, and about three hours from Calais, a region of dense forests, winding river valleys, small towns and wonderful restaurants.

This last feature was the real surprise, for while the restaurants of Brussels, Bruges and Ghent pull in the gastronomes, I had no idea that their high standards extended into the more remote parts of the Belgian countryside. This turned our four-day break into a tour *gastronomique*, beginning in the city of Namur.

A fortress city at the junction of the Sambre and Meuse, Namur is known locally as the Gateway to the Ardennes, and our hotel, Les Tanneurs, proved the perfect base.

This is one of those charming, higgledy-piggledy hotels, where the staircases run off in all directions and you have to watch your head. It also boasts two unusual features, a Cybercafé offering a swift guide to the Internet, and a group of resident lawyers offering hotel guests a free briefing on European Community law.

If neither appeal — and they didn't — then there is the hotel's main restaurant, L'Espieglerie, all glittering glass and oak beams, where the food was well worth the harrowing drive down the autoroute from Calais.

Belgian menus tend to florid prose; the *avalanche du chef, les raptures des legumes, une frivolité de glace*, but once past that the food is superb; *fricassée de sandre de Meuse grillé* or *panaché de huitres*, a choice of chocolate puddings, all dishes to die for and bad dreams guaranteed.

Next day was devoted to sightseeing and getting lost. Namur has pleasant streets and good shopping and the citadel above the rivers is well worth an hour, but then it was into the car and south to the town of Dinant, via the water-gardens at Annevoie, all flowers and fountains.

Dinant is famous as the birthplace of Adolphe Sax, who invented the saxophone, and for yet another 19th-century citadel. Then, having done Dinant in about an hour, largely devoted to coffee in a riverside café, we headed east into the Ardennes and life became confused.

There are advantages in wandering at will; a succession of minor roads, three-point turns and muddy lanes led us to the valley of the Ourthe, the little town of Durbuy with its Hotel des Sangliers des Ardennes. My wife was navigating and the hotel showed up just before divorce.

Lunch at the Hotel des Sangliers went on for several hours, beginning with a calming glass of champagne, the four-course set menu at £36 — good food in Belgium does not come cheap — a good bottle of wine from their extensive cellar and a lot of piping hot coffee. A *sanglier* is a wild boar — allegedly they teem in the Ardennes woods but the only ones we saw were protruding from the walls of their namesake hotel. We had clearly missed the sanglier-teeming season, but Durbuy is a charming little town, full of cobbled streets, old houses, tiny boutiques and craft shops, the sort of place that would be hellish in the tourist season.

After that came more wandering, south to the towns shattered in the 1944-5 Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne, Houffalize, St Vith, Malmédy and then, taking no chances, onto the autoroute that now spans the Ardennes and back to Namur, for another splendid dinner at Le Temps des Cerises, a tiny, red-painted restaurant in the back streets of the city, full of local people eating local dishes, asparagus pâté, *carbonade flamande*, *waterzooi de lotte* and wild boar, all well cooked and on the £20 menu.

Next day it rained, and our route lay east, up the Meuse to the splendid city of Liège, which, apart from being the birthplace of Georges Simenon, creator of Inspector Maigret, can boast a university, a symphony orchestra, 20 museums, some splendid churches and many fine restaurants — not bad for a city with just 200,000 inhabitants.

You have to be selective about the museums in Liège because it is blessed with so many of them. I chose the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art which contains a collection any capital city would envy, with works by Corot, Vlaminck, Magritte, Picasso, Chagall, and a score more, turning a dreary day into a paradise of colour.

Lunch — a *salade frisé aux lardons* — was taken in a side street cafe, for we were saving ourselves for dinner at the Mame Vi Cou, one of the most celebrated restaurants in the city. The Mame Vi Cou lies in an old house of the rue de la Wache, a street that dates from 1416. The way into the restaurant is lined with signed photos of the famous, tennis players, pop stars, television presenters, people like that, which is usually a bad sign.

Fortunately, the Mame Vi Cou also caters for local people and family parties so the food was well up to the usual Belgian standard. The decor ranges from oak rafters to bright murals and the tables are loaded with bric-a-brac; a piano tinkles, the owner works the tables and greets his guests in five or six languages, and the food arrives at regular intervals. It all added up to another splendid meal.

Sunday mornings in Liège are dominated by the *Batte*, the riverside market that stretches along the bank of the Meuse for a mile or more, with stalls selling everything from plants and mowing machines to Ardennes ham and honey. A couple of hours there after breakfast and then it was time to hare back to Calais.

On the way we stopped for lunch in Armentières, but that lies in France and it wasn't the same thing at all.

BELGIAN FOOD FACT FILE

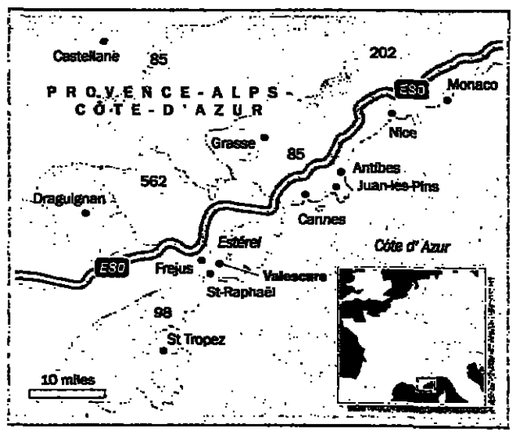


■ Robin Neillands visited the Ardennes and Meuse Valley as a guest of the Belgian Tourist Board (0891 887799, premium rates) and SeaFrance (0990 711711). A standard return crossing from Dover to Calais costs £149 for a car and up to five people if booked before May 31 for travel any time this year. Journey time from Calais to Namur is three hours.

■ The Les Tanneurs hotel and L'Espieglerie Restaurant, 13, Rue des Tanneries, Namur (00 32 81 231999). Restaurant Le Temps des Cerises, 22, Rue Des Brasseurs, Namur (81 225326).

Hotel Les Sangliers des Ardennes, 6940 Durbuy sur Ourthe. (86 213262). Restaurant Mame Vi Cou, 9, Rue de la Wache, Liège. (42 237181). Hotel Bedford, Quai St Leonard, Liège. (42 288111).

Where even teenagers enjoy themselves



While James, 14, indulged his love of sport, his father **Tony Dawe** made do with more sedentary pleasures along the Côte d'Azur

With that sparkling sea, mountain backdrop, chic boutique at every corner and unbeatable nightlife, the Côte d'Azur is still a desirable holiday destination. But how do you enjoy it with children who are below clubbing age and whose idea of style is a spiky haircut and a tracksuit?

The answer, for my family at least, is the Maeva Latitudes Residence at Valescure, set in the hills behind St Raphaël. There, in a pinewood setting, a dozen sports can be played and a few more are available with a minimum of effort and travelling.

The resort comprises a hotel and self-catering apartments with separate facilities. In the evenings, disco and karaoke nights combine with more seductive dances. The adults can either join in or retire to the hot spots, both literal and euphemistic. I had a good excuse for lazing in the sunshine: a cartilage operation six weeks earlier. So while James, 14, headed for the volleyball court, five-a-side football pitch or table-tennis tournament, my wife and I settled down to enjoy the fine wines of Provence.

I did join him in the huge swimming pool but the dominant sport at Valescure is golf. A splendid course winds around the resort. This is very much for serious players with an official handicap — learning the rudiments takes five days and costs £245.

For the determined there is a golf academy, which is the nearest James has ever come to heaven. Beautifully maintained facilities included a practice putting green, spectacular driving range, practice bunker and chipping area, all supervised by enthusiastic young coaches.

The nine-hole course was also a delight with all the hazards you might find at Muirfield: a stream, a lake, a deep gully and thick woods. Even better, from my point of view, was La Tosca restaurent on a little hill above the clubhouse. There, the Italian wife of a golf obsessive cooked perfect pasta to be enjoyed on the terrace while James took off for his second round.

We did persuade him to leave the resort with us occasionally, most successfully to visit the Esterel massif. Even he, who normally sighs at his father's command to "Look at that view", was impressed by the breathtaking coastal scenery on one side and the rugged peaks, which would not have looked out of place in Arizona, on the other.

The many attractions of Antibes and Juan-les-Pins made an entertaining diversion from the sporting activites, and Grasse, with its perfume and art museums and its excellent bistros, was an ideal destination for our only wet day. But the days and even the nights were dominated by the sporting attractions of the Maeva Latitudes Residence.

As we returned at 10.30pm from an excellent seafood restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean, we came across a golf tournament in full swing. Flares marked the 18 holes of the Valescure course while golfers armed with torches as well as clubs pursued luminous balls up and down the fairways. The culmination was the 19th hole, where fairy lights illuminated a giant barbecue.

Who needs a nightclub?

ELIZABETH GRICE



James, 14, shows his father Tony how to get into the swing of things



The pinewood setting of Valescure

FATHER AND SON FACT FILE

■ The Dawe family stayed at the self-catering Maeva Latitudes Residence in Valescure with Crystal France (0181-241 5030).

■ A villa sleeping up to six people costs from £389 a week; villas sleeping up to four cost from £335. Children aged between four and 17 can join in with organised activities, play sport and then disco to their hearts' content with the resort's free miniclub; they also pay reduced entry fees to the 18-hole golf course.

■ The Dawes travelled during the May half-term when French schoolchildren do not have a break. The resort was quiet and there were no queues for any of the facilities. The drawback was that there were few organised events.

■ The essential guidebook is the *Michelin Green Tourist Guide, French Riviera* (Michelin, France, £8.99); also worth reading is *Provence and the Côte d'Azur: The Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £8.99).

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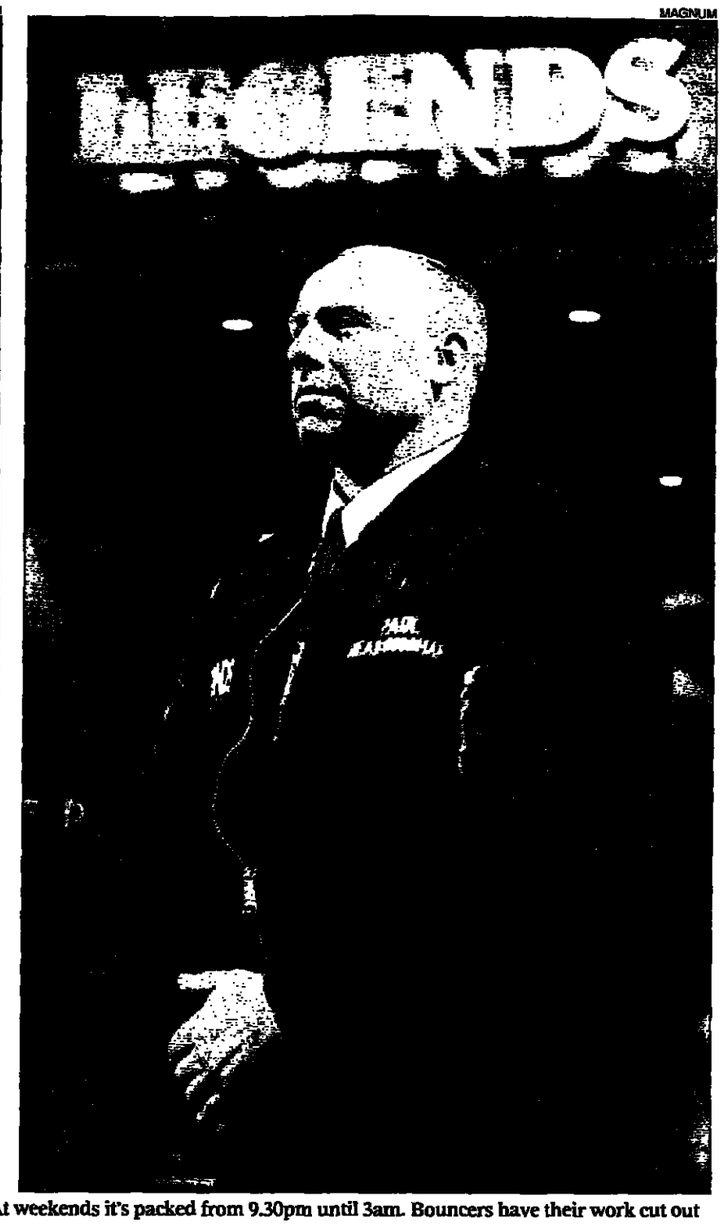
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WILL WALKER



MAGNUM

Girls on a night out in the Bigg Market, Newcastle's traditional drinking heartland, which contains 160 pubs and as many restaurants in one square mile. At weekends it's packed from 9.30pm until 3am. Bouncers have their work cut out

Welcome to the city with soul

Jim Keeble puts his drinking boots on and heads north to find fine art, fine food and a non-stop party in Newcastle, the Eighth Best Party City in the world

For party animals, Newcastle rivals Rio de Janeiro. At least, according to a travel agency in Dallas, Texas, it does. To the delight of Tyneside tourism bosses, the agency has voted Newcastle the Eighth Best Party City in the world, ranking it just behind Miami and Rio. No other British city was rated.

Not being averse to a party myself, I called my DJ brother Ben and we headed up the east coast to discover just how much fun you can have in England's most northerly metropolis.

First signs were promising. As we left the train station we were met by cranes, scaffolding and traffic jams caused by massive building projects in the city centre. Banks were being turned into restaurants, flour mills into art galleries, Victorian pubs into gleaming Nineties bars. Even the beer was changing. I ordered a Newcastle Brown Ale and was handed a sleek new Kate Moss-shaped bottle, modelled for the Nineties consumer.

Our hotel, the newly-opened Malmaison, was as chic and cool as any in London or New York. The Scottish boutique hotel chain plans properties in London and Paris next. Nigel Massey, a hotel spokesman said: "Newcastle was our first hotel south of the border and it was ideal. Newcastle is one of the most exciting new cities in England, as cool as London."

We had dinner at the home of Newcastle FC, St James' Park, expecting pie and mash. Instead we got grilled pheasant breast, champagne sorbet and vintage Rioja in a deluxe restaurant, the Magpie Room, high above the pitch.

Less sophisticated, but far more boisterous, is Bigg Market, Newcastle's traditional drinking heartland leading down to the Tyne, which contains 160 pubs and as many restaurants in one square mile. At 9.30pm the place was heaving.

"You must be from out of town," said a girl wearing a skirt that would have made a Spice Girl blush.

"How can you tell?"

"Easy," she laughed. "You're wearing a jacket."

Bigg Market lives up to its name. The drinks are Bigg — triple vodkas at £1.75. So is the music — pumping Eighties House. Hard-as-nails lads in T-shirts and chinos eyed bubbly girls in dresses that would either get them arrested or put on page three. At The Vault pub, where three girls dressed as Mickey Mouse were downing pints, the bouncer grinned. "There's a riot every Friday in Newcastle. It's called a night out."

While Bigg Market is inhabited mainly by teenagers and those who still think they are, the Quayside area is populated by those born before 1978. Here T-shirts give way to Ralph Lauren but it's just as busy. The Quilted Camel pub was like a round of *It's A Knockout*, only everyone had played their joker. There was barely room to raise your designer beer.

Yet beyond the thronging pubs, even Newcastle's nightlife is changing. Club licences have just been extended to 3am. We headed on to the World HQ, a club playing soul and funk without a handbag or Peter Andre song in sight.

The crowd was young, racially mixed, and hip. Wayne MacDonald, local DJ and promoter of Geordie music, set me straight: "We've got life. I was going back to Preston when I finished college. Then I looked around and it struck me. There's soul again in Newcastle." At Legends, a more predictable sweat-shop playing Drum'n'Bass and heavy House, DJ Skev, a sprightly immigrant from Hull, seemed equally bullish: "It's all changed. Now when you say you're from Newcastle you say it with pride."

Saturday began slowly. We wandered up Grey Street, Sir John Betjeman's "subtle descending curve" and his favourite avenue in England. The elegant Georgian facade, in the heart of Newcastle, is reminiscent of Bath or Bristol. We pottered around the newly renovated Laing Art Gallery, and discovered a local master in the shape of Marshall Atkinson (1913-1990) whose vibrant, energetic paintings recall French fauvism, with vivid titles such as *A Bridge For Suicides*, *Mad Holiday in France* and my favourite, *Howay the Lads*, depicting Newcastle United v Leeds in midwinter.

Outside in pedestrianised Northumberland Street, it was busier than the Pope at Christmas. In the Eldon Centre — "It's blooming great shopping" — crowds of smartly-dressed Norwegians marauded through the malls, laden with Miss Selfridge bags. Each weekend huge ferries steam over from Norway carrying thousands of Vikings wielding credit cards. It's no wonder tourism in the city has increased 13 per cent in the last year. The blond pound is good for business.

But it's not just neo-Vikings who arm themselves with plastic. New shops and boutiques are opening weekly to meet demand for designer fashion from well-heeled young locals.

Late afternoon we climbed up to the Tyne Bridge, the spiritual heart of the city. Recently, it's become the busiest bridge in Britain, carrying 4,800 cars an hour, which makes contemplation of the sunset less than tranquil. The sky turned mauve, purple, magenta, but there was no time for poetry. It was time to get out on the Toon.

We began with vodkas in the spanking new Pitcher and Piano on the river, where boys and girls with expensive hair sipped expensive cocktails. Then onto the Yel Bar in Bigg Market where "Luscious Louise" serves £1.50 trebles in barely a green sarong. We contemplated waiting for "Winky Wonky's wheel of challenge, snog up to eight men in 60 seconds", but we were already late for the show.

If Comedy is the new rock and roll, the new Hyena Café is Newcastle's Cavern Club. For £9 you get a meal and three hours of stand-up compered by the incomparable Anvil Springsteen, a Liverpudlian with a fine line in jokes ("What do you call a Scouser in a white shell-suit? The bride"). It was a lively night, with comedians playing second fiddle to a group of boisterous social workers who heckled so much they were asked to leave, then told to leave, then removed by a large bouncer.

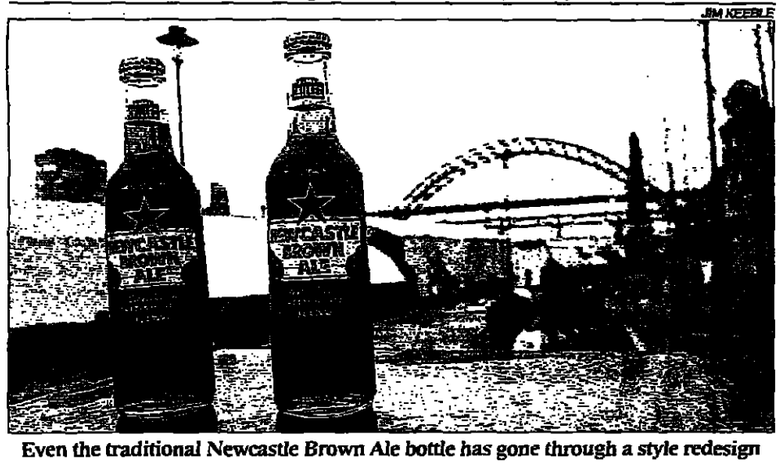
The night ended at Newcastle's most famous club, the Riverside, on its nationally renowned Shindig night. We danced, drank Newkie Brown, and admired the dress-sense of Geordie women. All too soon it was over. Outside the 3am queues for cabs were laughing and reeling.

"Aye don't wanta go in the car yet," bemoaned a young lady in fake fur.

"Show us your spare tyre pet."

And she did.

Newcastle is changing. While it might not be Rio just yet, the future seems bright. Foreign tourists are flocking in. The music scene is buzzing. And if you like to party, there's nowhere like it in England. Just don't wear a jacket.



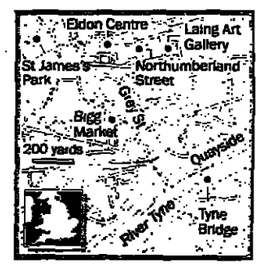
JIM KEEBLE

Even the traditional Newcastle Brown Ale bottle has gone through a style redesign

NEWCASTLE STYLE FILE

■ Jim Keeble travelled with GNER (0345 225225) by rail from London to Newcastle, a three-hour journey. From Edinburgh: 90 minutes, from Manchester: three hours. Return fares from London King's Cross to Newcastle start at £41.50; from Edinburgh, £22. These fares must be booked seven days in advance. Regional Railways North East, bookable through GNER, return from Manchester starts at £34.90 but must be booked seven days in advance.

■ **Hotels:** Jim Keeble stayed at the Malmaison Hotel (0191-245 5000) at 104 Quayside, Newcastle NE1 2PA.
http://www.malmaison.com
e-mail: Newcastle@malmaison.com
Double rooms from £65 per night at weekends (no supplement for singles). Weekdays: £95.



■ **Restaurants:** The Magpie Room at St James's Park (0191-201 8439). Stylish cuisine above the pitch, from £60 for two with wine.
Hyena Café (0191-232 6030) Leazes Arcade, Leazes Lane. Simple food and copious laughs at Newcastle's new comedy club, from £9.
Trattoria Uno (0191-261 5264), 18 Sandhill Quayside. Italian specialities from £30 for two with wine.

■ **Art:** Laing Art Gallery, New Bridge Street (0191-232 7734). Free entrance except for special exhibitions. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2pm-5pm.

■ **Nightlife:** World HQ (0191-261 2154. After 10pm: 261 8648), 9 Marlborough Crescent. Ostensibly a private club, so call in advance for membership (£1). Riverside (0191-232 9729), Melbourne Street, great for Saturday night Shindig, entrance £7.

■ **Who goes there?:** Laughter-loving, beer-imbibing football fans. And art-loving, designer-dressed opera lovers. Something for everyone, as long as you like having fun.

■ **Getting the ball rolling:** City and Tourism Information Service: Central Library, Princess Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE99 1DX. Tel: 0191-261 0610. Their website *http://www.newcastle.gov.uk* has useful pages on sights, hotels, sport etc.

■ **Perfect Timing:** The weekend is when Newcastle rocks — Friday night tends to be wilder (singles night). Saturday a little quieter (you go out with your significant other). In June there is the "Newcastle Hoppings", a 40-acre funfair on the Town Moor (June 12-18) and "The Plate", the north-east's biggest horse race of the year at Northumbria races (June 25-27).

■ **Suitcase Strategy:** Take with you: T-shirt/miniskirt, dancing shoes, aspirin. Bring back — Newcastle United duvet, towels and curtains.

■ **The pound in your pocket:** Drinking is good value. Happy hours are frighteningly cheap. Many offer £1.25 for treble spirits, £1 a pint of beer, and extend up to 8pm-9pm. Such pricing might explain the fun-levels.

■ **Turn of Phrase:** Only speak Geordie if you want to sound like a loony. Call everyone "pet" and add the word "man" onto every sentence, even if addressing a female (eg. "Gannin' oot on the toon, man?" — are you coming out for a drink?). When ordering, remember that a bottle of Newcastle Brown is "a bottle of Dog".

■ **Big no-nos:** Wearing a jacket or anything that might keep you warm. Mentioning the words Sunderland or Middlesbrough in a footballing context. Mentioning the word London in any context.

■ **Nasty Surprises:** Despite being the most fun-loving city in England, most pubs still close at 11pm. Clubs close at 3am, so start early.

■ **Not to be missed:** The elegant curve of Grey Street; sunset from the Tyne Bridge, and Bigg Market on Friday night.



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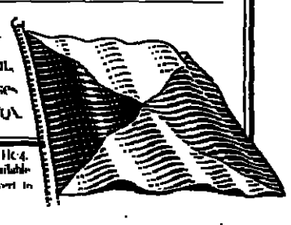
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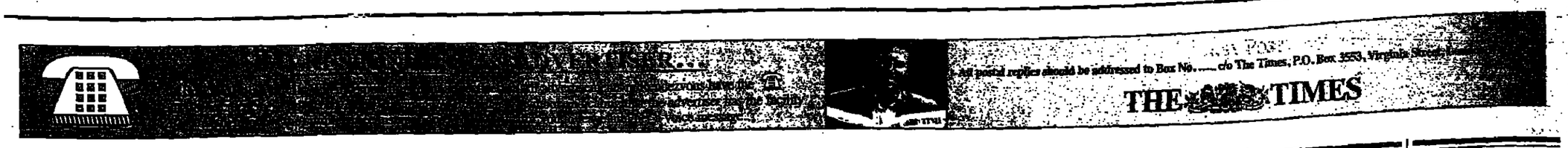
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ARE you 50+, unmarried, continental, professional, genuinely seeking a true forever friend, supportive partner? Me, cheerful, loving, intelligent, looking for an equal to share fun with & ultimately travelling the world together. Photo / phone please. Box no: 5121 /bs

ATTRACTIVE 32 year old, loves open-top cars & sport, green eyed, both the good & simple things in life. Seeks tall, genuine, 27-37 year old. Box 1064 /bm

ATTRACTIVE, slim brunette, s/s, young 45, seeks a caring, sincere, successful, attractive man. Photo please. Herts/ N. London. Box number 1044 /bm

ATTRACTIVE Surrey Lady whose interests include travel, golf, theatre & living life to the full WLTM tall, intelligent, WS man under 50. Box no 1013 /bm

LADIES

ATTRACTIVE educated independent petite widow WLTM mature companion to enjoy travel, theatre etc. London/Home Counties. Photo please. Box 1016 /bm

BEAUTIFUL slim blond, well spoken, warm, loving, intelligent WLTM tall, handsome, caring GSH male. Lancs. Box 1009 /bm

BRIGHTON Elite. Unattached and eligible? Want to change things? Call us! 01273 270975.

BRISTOL/Bath area. For quality, local introductions call Chris at Elite now: 0117 973 6643

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CARING & considerate Cheshire based lady, outgoing & attractive, WLTM loyal, adventurous, ruthless man with no ties, 40's-60's. Box 1011 /bm

CYBELL look-a-like, 40ish, Continental, feminine, lots to give, Hyde Hampstead. Seeks decent photogenic man with expensive interests for commitment. Box number 1042 /bm

CLUB ENCOUNTERS National coverage, with local introductions, backed up with a personal service. Call 0800 141 141.

ELEGANT very attractive, bright, quiet professional lady, 57, slim, young 33 seeks taller, kind professional man 32-40. Must be cheerful, confident with positive outlook. Probably divorced. S/Sh West. Please respond to box number 3941 /bs

GORGEOUS 46 year old blonde (ex model), slender, good legs, stylish, vivacious, elegant. Intelligent, sophisticated, fun loving and kind seeks tall, attractive, interesting gentleman deserving of same. Please respond to box number 1028 /bs

LONDON based, independent professional, 40's with GSOH seeks well-balanced man to share love of opera, fine arts, travel (Puccini & Rhodes - but no tents!) and relaxing in the country. Box number 4001 /bs

LADIES

INTERNATIONAL Ivy League American (part-English) currently in S. California. Charming, sassy my "smile", slim, 5'4", affectionate, vivacious, cultured, multi-lingual, athletic, lover of London/Home Counties, who seeks special man, 28-38, for interesting, perhaps long distance relationship. Box no 1045 /bs

I'VE finally plucked up the courage to go ahead with this ad. I'm a 34 year old, tall, attractive, elegant lady. I travel and enjoy the finer things in life, especially lots of laughter. You are tall, successful and genuine, self confident with a good sense of humour. You know how to treat a lady and still believe in love. Box number 1020 /bm

MILLIONAIRE - no - just a solvent, intelligent gentleman accepted 60 with an expanding mind & wide interests. Thoughtful, optimistic, realistic, unselfish, fit, in touch in terms of country, still with future plans & wanting to share, I am 5'9", slim, pretty, practical, active, loves travel to remote places, reading, sailing, cooking, music & home making. I'll bet your shirts (though don't tell my grandparents) - but need cherishing & warmth. London based but equally happy living in the country. A photo & phone no would be a nice start. Box number 1068 /bm

LADIES

MY Russian Opera holiday is over & this attractive Jewish lady with eclectic tastes including music, theatre, walks, seeks further adventures. WLTM gentleman, 50-70, in North West. Box 5021 /bm

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 'Elite'. 100's of attractive, articulate ladies, all ages, seeking quality men. Call Elite on 0115 937 6104 for free info.

PROFESSIONAL slim, blond, 40, quiet, educated, sociable, witty, funny, open-minded gambler & caring prof. male. Interests include travel, cinema, theatre, eating out, walks. Photo appreciated. Box number 1061 /bs

RICHMOND Kingston Esher Elite +25 mile radius 100's of members 0181 580 0028

V Attractive, petite, professional lady in Central London seeks fun-loving male, 35-45, for theatre, cinema, restaurants and country walks. Photo appreciated. Box No: 7361 /bs

LADIES

SCOTLAND Elite we have many attractive and accomplished lady members of all ages especially 30's, located throughout Scotland. Elite works. Gentlemen 0131 620 7777/0141 234 7777/01224 626277 -7 days

VERY attractive, lively, professional Irish brown eyed long dark hair (age 33) seeks handsome professional male (age 32-40) interests include travel, cinema, eating out, skiing, London. Photo preferred. Box no: 1015 /bs

WHO would like to write to a 52 year old, slim, petite woman. living in Cambridge area, who has many interests in art, opera, walks & also enjoys home comforts? Box No 1017 /bs

WOMAN with wits & whimsy, brains & beauty, 40's, living in London, would like to gamble with a man wary to self who enjoys music, food, wine, mooching, snoozing & the Shipping Forecast. Box number 1059 /bs

SUSSEX Optimistic brunette, mid-50's, WLTM kind, trustworthy gentleman, 50-60, interested in walks, dinners, travel, theatre. SOH essential. Please write with photo to box number 8841 /bs

TITLED lady, attractive, mid-fifties, seeks gentleman, 55 to 65, for friendship, golf, dining out and possibly holidays abroad. Someone who enjoys the finer things in life. Must love no ties and be financially independent. Box number 9721 /bs

TIRED attractive exotic brunette, brown eyes, 37, tall, very slim, stylish, educated, fit, into sports, seeks unattached older gent. Photo essential. Box number 8221 /bs

V Attractive, petite, professional in Central London seeks fun-loving male, 35-45, for theatre, cinema, restaurants and country walks. Photo appreciated. Box No: 7361 /bs

LADIES

ZARA, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

GENTLEMEN

AMERICAN psychologist, 6', s/s, Hampstead Heath, seeks lady, 50's, for walks & music. Letter & photo helpful. Box no. 1027 /bm

ARE you looking for a good looking, athletic, kind hearted, professional 47 year old with a PASSION who likes the opera, theatre, sport & the countryside. If so, & you are between 35 & 42 please respond with a photo to box number 1026 /bm

BRIGHTON up your life. Tall, dark, attractive, slim, successful gentleman, 59, seeks partner to share interests: Arts, travel, friends and laughter. London. Please write to box number 9201 /bs

BRISTOL/Bath area. For quality, local introductions call Chris at Elite now: 0117 973 6643

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DEVON/ Cornwall. Handsome, very successful, tall, prof male, 40, totally attractive, seeks petite, attractive, articulate lady (no Tom boys/ hiking sorts please) for love & laughter. Photo/ phone no to box 1060 /bm

GORGEOUS bridgeover 6' tall, 42, educated, fit, sporty, successful and fun. Would like to share wonderful life with pretty special girl. Photo please. Box number 4621 /bs

HANDSOME, humorous & affluent, fit & 50, s/s, WLTM an attractive, younger woman for a fun lifestyle - holidays, theatre, meals out. Box number 1030 /bm

LAWYER, 55, likes arts, sports. WLTM 40ish lady for loving relationship. Exchange photos. Wilts/ Hants. Box no. 1048 /bm

GENTLEMEN

KNIGHT in tarnished armour seeking damsel (not yet in distress!); must be slim, attractive, well endowed, non-smoker with GSOH & interests including theatre, art, travel, fine dining & candlelit dinners for two. Please write to box number 1062 /bm

MARRIED man, 40, seeks female partner, age 40-50, to accompany on interesting leisure trips, friendship & maybe more. London area. Please call box number 1063 /bs

SCOTLAND Elite Ladies are your countrywide introduction agency for personal men! We have interviewed and been chosen by many to help them find a partner. Take control 0131 620 7777/0141 234 7777

SINCERE genr, youthful 41, Christian, professional, cultured, cosmbl, intelligent, cultured, good fun, easy/outward going, WSOH, s/s, fit and sporty WLTM slim, pretty slimline lady 25-35 for mutual love, to spoil and more. London/Herts area, reply letter/photo to box no: 1018 /bm

STRONG-minded, good looking, successful businessman, age 40, wishes to devote more stress-free time to his newly life. Seeks good looking, feminine, fun loving lady, under 40, for a one-to-one relationship including dining out, theatre, weekends away. Personal photo & tel no. assures reply. Box number 9181 /bs

TALL, lanky, handsome male. Financially secure, worldly, funny, lighthearted, intelligent. Mid-20-30ish female, full of life, very attractive, looking for exciting and adventurous times. Photo please.Please respond to box number 1025 /bm

GENTLEMEN

WANTED Demanding confident dominant lady 25+ who wants complete & utter submissive male to cook homemade bless-you!- & make 39 for exciting times. Box no: 4501 /bs

ZARA, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

GOLFER. Lasting relationships need keys to common. Are you attractive, perhaps a professional person bored with Mon routine, keen on sports, especially golf. How sun & travel, theatre, music & dining out, willing to live abroad & have a CSOH - age 30-37 & looking for a lifetime partner on & off the links. Letter & photo please. Please Reply to Box. No. 1040 /bs

PROFESSIONAL businessman, 55, widowed 5 years ago, now wishing to rebuild his personal life, seeks an intelligent, attractive, fun-loving lady. Age immaterial but must want to share a permanent relationship if the chemistry is right. Please enclose photo. All replies will be answered. Box No 2037 /bs

TDH 35 yr old rough diamond seeking gem with class, charm and very sparkling future. I'm uniquely successful, usually very funny and far too confident, and looking for a mate who likes indoor sports, outdoor racquets or pastas, fumbling, poetry, 25-30ish lady, who isn't too trust and absurdity and a good time will be mutual. If you're a wise drinking connoisseur with a passing interest in cooking and can put up with my moans, and can put up with hilarious around silverscreen in red things from Italy. So I guess that rules out politically correct, strident feminists. Oh, otherwise why not reply with an enchanting photo & letter. Oscar/ M40. Box No 2031 /bs

SPRING is now here, with a song and a smile, and thoughts are hopefully turning to love and dating. Are you seeking a fun, special delightful good looking s/s romantic lady, with a lovely smile and manner, who is active and enjoys life to the full, with GSOH. A little sophistication, touched with elegance and style, who with the right chemistry, will bring back that old sparkle and a new romance into a lasting relationship, full of affection and TLC. Enjoying each others company, from pillow talk to dyslexia, to spoil and more, walking in the Lake District, to walking in Salsbury's. Its the sharing that makes it all worth while, whilst encompassing romance, music, theatre, dancing, countryside, walking, travel, the home and much more, with a retired Gentleman widower, a very young looking and active, for his mid 60s, slimish, 5'8, with a good wardrobe, a very young looking style. Who would appreciate a genuine reply, with a recent photo from that lovely lady, allowing the sun to also once again. Reply to: 1802 /bs

WHO'S for Glyndebourne? An elegant, slim, s/s, mid 50's lady sought to share champagne. Please phone & details of other interests (W. London).No. 2016 /bs

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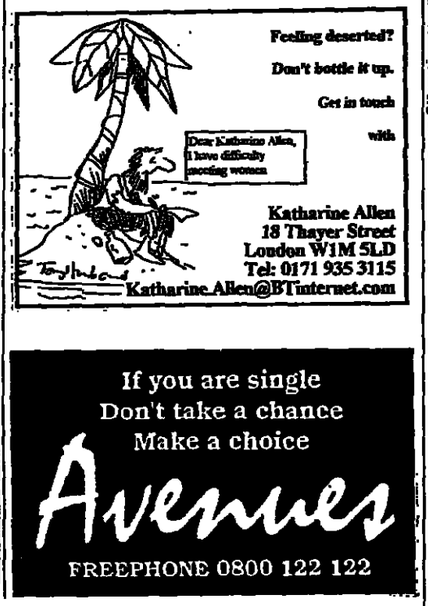
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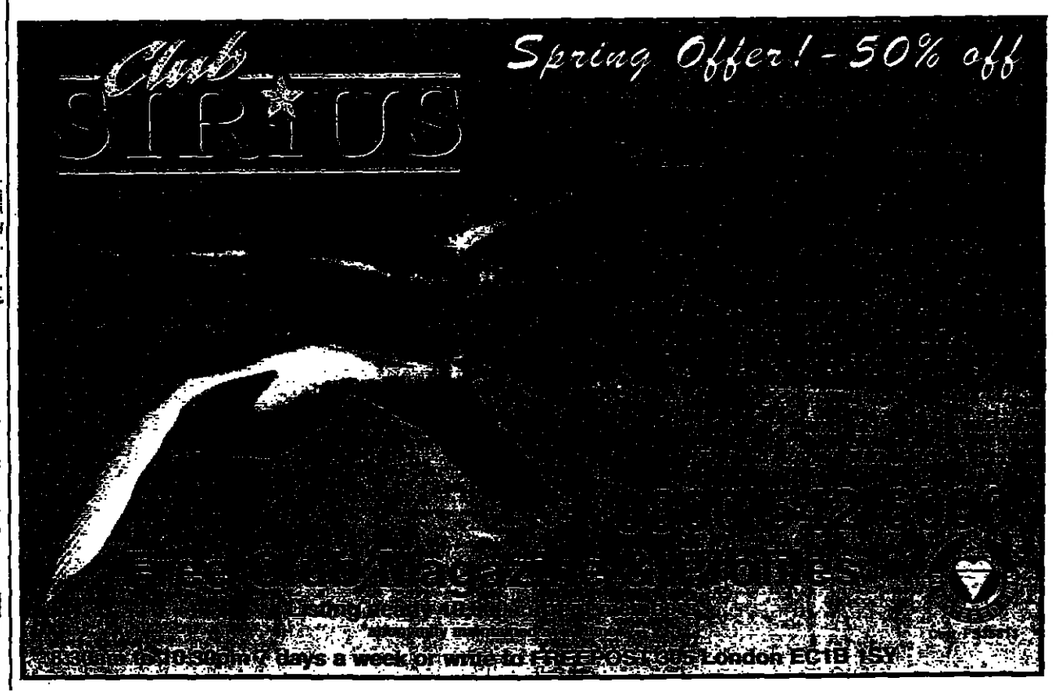
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GUYS – READ THIS!

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Have you ever thought how difficult it is for attractive, intelligent, successful women to meet guys they can relate to? If they're in the top ten per cent of society intellectually, that means ninety per cent of the men they meet are non-starters. That's just on intelligence, let alone personality and 'the wife'. Assuming that you're unattached and could match their intellect, where could they go to meet you? And the probability of that? So now you know why we always have top quality ladies. If you do not understand the problem, go straight to the end of this ad. →

The solution

Join us. We always need high quality gentlemen. However, you will need to be aged over 25, well-spoken, intelligent, at least 5'6" tall, successful in your career and completely unattached (no wife or mummy thank you). If you can't meet this specification, go straight to the end of this ad. →

The choices

1. *Continue with the 'bimbo route' and hope you will eventually bump into someone classy.*
2. Do something positive. Call The Executive Club on 0171 499 8833 and we'll spoil you
3. **Save your money – place an advert in the 'Lonely Hearts' of your local paper**

E.C. E.C.

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THE TIMES
Carnival guarantees that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope they are a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

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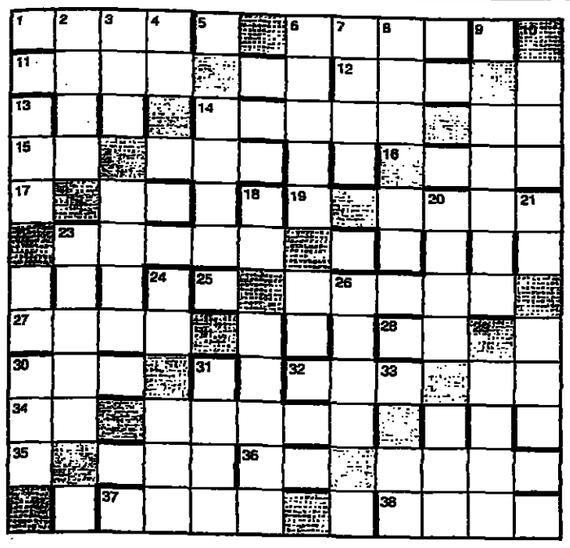
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No. 3461: A Case in Point by Gos



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A plot (of a type) has been discovered, with a guilty party, referred to as X, who comes to a sticky end. This is highlighted diagonally in the completed grid by means of a Playfair code. A relevant name, to be deduced from the hints given, has been used as the keyword, but must first be truncated to eliminate two recurring letters.

Two other relevant names are also highlighted in the completed grid and have been similarly Playfair coded using a different associated keyword (in fact two words, one with a quite usual abbreviation), also to be deduced.

A rearrangement of the initial letters of 4, 17, 21, 25 and 38 will be of assistance in deducing the theme of the puzzle. Solvers must decode the occurrence and both names before submitting entries. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended, but does not give 19 (in *OED*) or one proper name. Another name is given only as a derivative source.

In a Playfair code-square, letters of a keyword in which no letter recurs precede the rest of the alphabet in order: I does duty for I and J. To encode a word split it into pairs of letters thus: CH EQ UE RS. If letters of a pair occur in same rank in square use letters to right of each (for last letter of rank use first letter). If in the same column use letters below each (for bottom letter of column use top letter); otherwise treat them as limits of a rectangle and use limits of opposite diagonals (EQ = BP, not PB which = QE). Result: EPBPWOOY, when joined into one word. Comparison of encoded letters with the code-square will enable the normal words to be discovered.

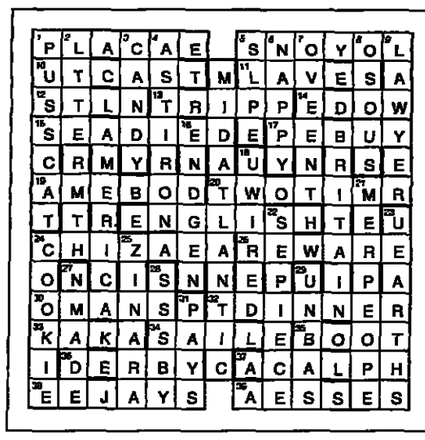
S	Y	C	A	M
O	R	E	B	D
F	G	H	I	K
L	N	P	Q	T
U	V	W	X	Z

ACROSS

1 Insubstantial, as with this game (4)
5 Accumulate on surface of some side-roads or by-ways (6)
11 Vessels turning East for one requiring oxygen (7)
12 Carbon copies taken in Yard case (5)
14 In Halacha I customarily locate a biblical character (8)
15 Hairy carnivore, principally of China (6)
16 *Local deprived old loony of money (4)*
17 Bob worked regularly on the other side of Glasgow (4)
19 Launcelot maintains former weight (6)
22 *Plotting device, note, unhappily had poor read out* (8)
25 A sort of soup, some sparkling wine (8)
27 Small coin, early Anglo-Saxon type: that's basically it (6)
28 Draws blood, at least a pint — making holes, of course! (4)
30 Nick's Chinese bull? (4)
32 Damage one of Sandy's ribs (6)
34 The hop that comes after the jump? (8)
35 Firstborn's one form of one, it's said . . . (5)
36 . . . and satellite dish (maybe!) has another three forms (7)
37 *Algae forming square, helmet shapes (6)*
38 Crosses Germany, needing urgent assistance (4)

DOWN

2 Asian animal has almost completed burrow on bank (5)
3 Proper wine is pale yellow in colour (8)
4 One not a Jew reverts to religious philosophy (4)
5 Intruder: a man getting in to take (6)
6 Strong drink makes mum sleep and sleep, reportedly (8)
7 An examination in vector algebra (4)
8 Offbeat singer is predominant (6)
9 A copper coin's sharp, hard feature (7)
10 Animal book half-read — by George? (4)
13 Vessels' second showing doubles quantity of hauls (6)
18 Doctor calculated speed of pulse? (8)
20 "Grub" put in soup at the start (second helping not required) (8)
21 Free from restraint, diving bird encircles water endlessly (6)
23 Medical Orderly to make set speech (7)
24 Bottle is, against all the odds, clear green one (6)
26 Makes opening possible, having removed a number of special rivets (6)
29 Sort of picnic area, not likely to be improved by drawing, alas! (5)
30 Bomber squadron being trained (4)
31 *The second son, a botanist* (4)
33 A lot of fish (4)



Solution and Notes for No. 3458: Bugs by Arcturus

The letters omitted from answers read "two countries divided by a common language", descriptive of differences between American and British English. The wording given is *attributed to George Bernard Shaw in The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*; the epigram has also been ascribed to Oscar Wilde and Dylan Thomas, and appears in different forms. The diagram is approximately cartographical, with "America" to the west and "Britain" to the east, separated by "English; mid-Atlantic" (having a linguistic as well as cartographical significance) runs down the centre. The six differently treated answers were ones on the "wrong" side of the diagram under this scheme: 36a bowler, 3d sweets and 24d biscuit become the American equivalents "derby, candy and cookie; 35a trunk, 6d diaper and 9d attorney become the British equivalents boot, nappy and lawyer. The title of the puzzle is an anagram of US and GB, *referred to in 29 down*.

The winner is D. Stuart-Clark, of Bristol, Avon. Runners-up: C.P. Auger, Redditch, Worcestershire; Sarah Parkinson, Islington, London; R.A. Mostyn, Wethersfield, Essex; D.E. Samuel, *Highgate, London; Brian Harris, Sanderstead, Surrey.*

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

PAUL CHEMLA of France, recent winner of the General Masters Individual title, is one of the more colourful personalities in European bridge. Rarely seen without a large Havana cigar which he uses to emphasise the Gallic expletives with which he castigates unfortunate partners, he is an imposing presence.

France is one of the most successful bridge-playing nations, although internal personality clashes *can result in it sending second-best* teams to international events. Nevertheless, France (and Chemla) hold both the Bermuda Bowl and *World Teams Olympiad titles.*

The following deal shows Chemla in action in the Nations Cup, a friendly international that *takes place in the Netherlands each* spring, before the tough Forbo-Krommenie Tournament. France won the event this year, the critical match being against the Dutch.

Dealer West N-S Game Teams

	♠AK95 ♥Q10 ♦J87 ♣Q1086	
♠876 ♥862 ♦KQ542 ♣KJ	N W E S	♠QJ32 ♥AJ93 ♦96 ♣954
	♠104 ♥K754 ♦A103 ♣A732	

Contract: Two No-Trumps by South. Lead: eight of spades

In one room the Dutch overbid the North-South cards to Three No-Trumps, which had no chance. The French were more disciplined:

W	N	E	S
Pass	1 C	Pass	1 H
2 D	Pass	Pass	2 NT
All Pass			

The standard French system is strong No-Trump and five-card majors, hence North's choice of opening. West's Two Diamonds was unsound — his suit is not good *enough. It deserved to go for a* penalty, but it is often hard for the opposition to double such bids when their trumps are split.

South's bid of 2NT deterred West from leading his own suit, which would have given declarer an easy eight tricks. Instead West tried a *spade, the best lead for the defence.* Chemla ducked, and also ducked the diamond switch from East. West won and played a second spade. Declarer won and carefully played the eight of clubs to his ace and a second club, playing dummy's ten under West's king.

West continued with a third spade which Chemla won with the ace, discarding a diamond from his hand. He cashed the ace of dia*monds and the queen of clubs and* exited with the fourth spade. East had nothing left but hearts. The best he could do was play ace and *another heart but Chemla won in* dummy, crossed to his hand with the carefully preserved six of clubs to his seven, and cashed the king of hearts, his eighth trick.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

TRIBAR
(b) A reinforced concrete block used in the construction of breakwaters. They were invented by Robert Q. Palmer. They consist of three cylinders, standing on end, and arranged in the form of an equilateral triangle. They are joined at the mid-points by a three-pronged web.

PENETRANCE
(c) The extent to which the effects of a gene are shown in an organism possessing it: expressed as the percentage of organisms showing the effects of a gene out of the total number known to possess it.

NEBECISM
A naphological (study of the inexplicable) theory which argues that the course of man's evolution was influenced by other advanced beings in the Universe during their stay on earth *after their arrival and landing in the* remote past.

RENDZINA
*(b) A brown earth soil of humid or semi-*arid grassland that has developed over calcareous parent material. The term is becoming obsolete under the US Department of Agriculture soil taxonomy. In that rendzina may fall between inceptisols and mollisols.

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36

Question 1
3.5 pounds

Question 2
Lewis Carroll (the pseudonym of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), Alice in Wonderland

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE INDIAN grandmaster Viswanathan Anand has enjoyed a *fine press recently, particularly after his win in the tournament at* Linares. The publication of his best games collection (reviewed in this column on February 28) has also helped to focus attention on his achievements.

Some experts, notably the American grandmaster Lubosh Kavalek in *The Washington Post*, have even been hailing Anand as the world's best player. One should, though, be cautious about this. Anand has lost decisively in all his official matches against both Karpov and Kasparov and he still has a horrible score against Kasparov in their personal encounters.

In Linares, Kasparov won only one game, but it was a controlled masterpiece of strategic aggression with Anand being the victim.

White: Garry Kasparov; Black: Viswanathan Anand
Linares 1998
Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6	2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	dxe4	4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Ng5	Ngf6	6	Bd3	e6
7	N1f3	Bd6	8	Qe2	h6
9	Ne4	Nxe4	10	Qxe4	Qc7
11	Qg4	Rg8			

Alternatives are 11 . . . g5 and 11 . . . Kf8. Anand tried this in a later game from Linares and held on for a draw.

12 Nd2

If 12 Bxh6 Nf6 13 Qg5 gxh6 14 Qxf6 Rxg2 15 Qxh6 Bd7 when Black has fine compensation.

12 . . .		Nf6	13	Qf3	e5
14	dxe5	Bxe5	15	Nc4	Be6
16	Bd2	0-0-0			

16 . . . Bxb2 17 Nxb2 Qe5+ 18 Qe2 Qxb2 19 0-0 0-0-0 20 a4 is far too dangerous for Black though a *possibility worth considering is 16* . . . Bxc4 17 Bxc4 Bxb2, e.g. 18 Qe3+ Qe5 19 Rb1 Qxe3+ 20 Bxe3 b5.

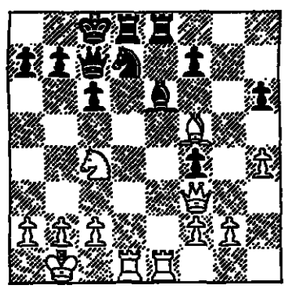
17	**0-0-0**	**Nd7**	**18**	**Rhe1**	

Anand now surrenders the bishop pair without a struggle. It looks better to play 18 . . . Bf6 meeting 19 Bf4 with 19 . . . Bg5.

18 . . .		**Rge8**	**19**	**Kb1**	**g5**
20	**h4**	**Bf4**			

The alternative was 20 . . . g4. But then comes 21 Qe3.

21	**Bxf4**	**gxf4**	**22**	**Bf5**	



Black has doubled pawns in the f-file, a future weakness. Kasparov places immediate stress on the black fortifications. Whichever way Black captures, he loses: 22 . . . Bxc4 23 Rxe8 Rxe8 24 Bxd7+ or 22 . . . Bxf5 23 Rxe8 Rxe8 24 Nd6+ Kd8 25 Nxf5.

22 . . .		**Nf8**	**23**	**Qh5**	**Kb8**
24	**Bxe6**	**Nxe6**	**25**	**e4**	

Kasparov wisely avoids 25 Qxh6 b5 26 Nd2 Rg8 27 Rg1 Qe5 when Black has counterplay.

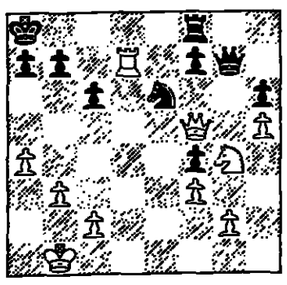
25 . . .		**Qe7**	**26**	**Qe5+**	**Qc7**
27	**Qh5**	**Qe7**			

Anand may have hoped for a draw by repetition, but Kasparov was repeating moves to gain time.

28 b3

Again Kasparov does not fall for 28 Rxd8+ Rxd8 29 Qxh6 Qb4 winning.

28 . . .		**Qf6**	**29**	**Ne5**	**Re7**
30	**Ng4**	**Rxd1+**	**31**	**Rxd1**	**Qg7**
32	**f3**	**Re8**	**33**	**Qf5**	**Ka8**
34	**h5**	**Rf8**	**35**	**Rd7**	



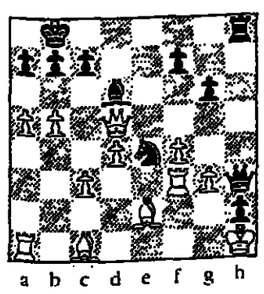
Black resigns

White threatens 36 Qxe6 and if 35 . . . Qg5 36 Qxg5 hxg5 White then has the choice between 37 Nf6 and 37 h6 when the passed pawn will decide matters in White's favour.

WINNING MOVES

by Raymond Keene

BLACK to play. This position is from the game Nataf - Korchnoi, Cannes 1998.



At the age of 67, Viktor Korchnoi continues to maintain a very high *standard of play. How did he finish* off his opponent here?

The first correct answer drawn on *Thursday* will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.
The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition:
1 ... Qxf1+

The winner is S.W. Hockey, of Sidmouth, Devon.

COMPUTER GAMES AND SOFTWARE

by Tim Wapshott

IN 1954, the legendary lizard Gojira was created in Japan. Within two years it had been *renamed Godzilla and a slippery* cinematic giant was also launched.

Over the past four decades the fire-breathing brute has gone on to live — and die — in many sequels. The last memorable one was made in the mid-1980s. This summer Columbia Tristar releases a remake for the 1990s — and to generate some Godzilla groupies this week it also launched a dedicated Web site.

The Godzilla site (*http://www.godzilla.uk.com*) has many a mindless distraction, including a masterful spin on the Tamagotchi — here called the Tamagodzi. You can grow your own "virtually insatiable pet" by feeding it tasty morsels and even the odd celebrity. An updated table shows which personalities have been selected most often to satisfy the reptile's appetite.

Other attractions include the Shockwave Godzilla game. Here you are put behind the wheel of a taxi and must stay on the tail of the leviathan lizard as he stomps around London.

Godzilla may be on our computer screens now but the movie is *not due to be released in the UK* until July 17. However, you could be one of the first Brits to see this sequel by winning tickets to the film's American premiere which will be held at Madison Square Gardens in New York on Monday, May 18.

A competition, already under way at the Web site, offers a trip for two to New York plus invites to the screening and the swanky "post-premiere party".



Stay on Godzilla's tail as he stomps around London

THE GOLDEN age of steam survives in America with the Grand Canyon Railway. A national treasure, the railway still provides a daily service departing from Williams, Arizona, which caters exclusively for tourists.

The day trip, which covers 65 miles of northern Arizona, takes in pine forests, high desert planes and *canyons. It is a chance to relive the* excitement of the Old West and, helping to recreate that mood during the journey, "strolling musi*cians and western characters" min*gle in the coaches.

The Grand Canyon Depot sits at the end of the line, in the heart of the national park. You get three and a half hours to explore the canyon before it is time to head back to Williams.

For the full picture, make for the Grand Canyon Railway Web site (*http://www.thetrain.com/*). As well as weather information, timetables and booking details — proving it can only be in America, there are no fewer than five classes of service available — you will find a few pleasures. The opening graphic is of a train billowing steam which is simple but evocative — make sure you listen for the odd authentic tooting train whistles.

IN Britain, where train travel always gets a poor press, technology is threatening to bring an end to our worst nightmare. To combat the problem of leaves on the line and keep trains running on time, signals will be beamed thousands of miles into space.

The solution, being developed by Thames Trains and AEA Technology, sounds like something from science-fiction novels.

It works like this: computers on the trains will monitor wheel slip and whenever it encounters something called "low adhesion" the exact location, pinpointed by Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) sitting out in space, will be automatically phoned over to a central computer in a British Rail nerve centre. Once amassed, this data can be used two ways. It will keep other train drivers informed of trouble spots ahead while allowing the problem to be rectified with a decidedly low-tech solution: men with shovels will be sent out to clear away the offending leaves.

GPS could yet improve other parts of the railway service in Britain. I would love to start a campaign to incorporate transmitters in the sandwich packs, to help staff locate and bin spoilt stock rather than selling it to me.

If you have any other ideas where GPS technology could revolutionise the quality of life, please drop me a line.

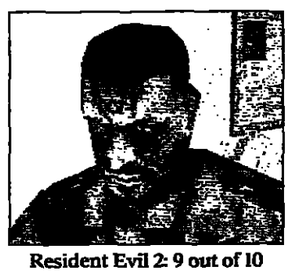
NEW SOFTWARE

IT TAKES three bullets to down a zombie temporarily but the living dead are soon back on their feet and, since some are even on fire, for ever hot on your tail. Virgin Interactive's **Resident Evil 2** is a superlative terror game for the *PlayStation. In essence it is an* elaborate platform game, with hundreds of short but atmospheric levels to complete.

Manoeuvring your character around is not necessarily a smooth experience. Like shopping trolleys, you may want to go one way but the *darn thing heads off in another* direction. What gives this title its supreme lustre are the fine animated graphics, however. This is *playing out your fantasies in an* adult cartoon which is particularly good. Each colourful scene is stacked with detail and then overlaid with several flickering animations, like moving shadows or street fires left unattended.

Sound also plays its part handsomely. Run up the metal steps of fire escapes and you will hear your footsteps switch from gentle thuds to noisy clanks. The music helps to take this blood-feast romp to boiling point, with a sinister score worthy of a Harrison Ford thriller. The end result is a hundred times more tense and absorbing than Channel 4's current cyberspace thriller, *Killer Net*.

Verdict: 9 out of 10. Exceptional adult horror caper. £49.99.



Resident Evil 2: 9 out of 10

UBI SOFT'S Artist! is a multimedia drawing tutorial intended *for the more mature student. Even* if you have not picked up a pencil since school, this title will help you unleash artistic skills you may not have known you possessed.

Based around 40 different video sequences, the CD-Rom breaks down drawing skills into easy-to-swallow chunks. First it blocks out the essential techniques needed to *master a variety of drawing styles,* such as landscapes, still life and the human body. The screen is divided to show the multimedia lessons and your drawing board, in which you are encouraged to copy, free-hand, what you see.

The title also has a variety of 3D models, which can be rotated through 360 degrees or zoomed into for closer scrutiny. In the perspective lessons you can alter perspectives and vanishing points of many scenes in real time.

Commentaries, too, are delivered with rare clarity. Artist! is intended to demystify the processes for those who think they cannot draw for toffee and, to that end, it works superbly.

All the main bases are covered comprehensively yet even accomplished artists might find the title has something to teach them. You can find out more about Artist! at the Ubi Soft Web site (*http://www.ubisoft.co.uk*).

Verdict: 8 out of 10. Admirable *teach-yourself-to-draw* package. £39.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 162

L	A	P	T	O	P	■	S	H	R	I	N	K	W	R	A	P	■	I	M	M	O	D	E	S	T	Y
E	■	A	■	R	■	P	■	A	■	D	■	E	■	A	■	R	■	N	■	O	■	E	■	P	■	A
T	U	R	N	A	B	L	I	N	D	E	Y	E	■	C	R	O	S	S	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N
H	■	E	■	C	■	E	■	K	■	O	■	P	■	E	■	R	■	P	■	E	■	C	■	T	■	K
A	U	X	I	L	I	A	R	Y	■	G	R	A	P	H	P	A	P	E	R	■	W	A	T	T	L	E
R	■	C	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	R	■	S	■	O	■	T	■	C	■	H	■	R	■	I	■	E
G	L	E	N	■	P	A	S	T	M	A	S	T	E	R	■	A	T	T	R	A	C	T	A	N	T	■
I	■	L	■	N	■	N	■	A	■	M	■	R	■	S	■	■	■	I	■	L	■	E	■	G	■	A
C	O	L	E	O	P	T	E	R	A	■	W	A	T	E	R	P	R	O	O	F	■	S	W	I	L	L	■
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D	E	N	S	I	T	Y	■	A	B	N	E	G	A	T	I	N	G	■	S	E	L	F	M	A	D	E	■
R	■	C	■	F	■	■	■	C	■	E	■	H	■	I	■	E	■	G	■	L	■	O	■	G	■	R	■
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	A	■	V	E	T	E	R	I	N	A	R	Y	S	U	R	G	E	O	N	■
W	■	■	■	A	■	B	■	D	■	I	■	F	■	E	■	E	■	A	■	O	■	T	■	■	■	A	■
B	E	L	L	B	O	O	K	A	N	D	C	A	N	D	L	E	■	N	A	N	N	Y	G	O	A	T	■
R	■	A	■	L	■	V	■	M	■	E	■	C	■	A	■	D	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	V	■	E	■
I	N	T	H	E	R	E	D	■	I	N	F	E	R	N	A	L	L	Y	■	S	T	I	P	E	N	D	■
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■	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	I	C	■	P	R	O	J	E	C	T	I	L	E	■	B	E	V	Y	■
A	■	W	■	U	■	D	■	S	■	R	■	H	■	T	■	N	■	■	■	I	■	G	■	W	■	P	■
P	L	I	A	N	T	■	C	E	R	A	M	I	C	I	S	T	■	S	O	C	I	A	L	I	T	E	■
E	■	N	■	D	■	O	■	R	■	N	■	B	■	O	■	A	■	I	■	A	■	T	■	C	■	R	■
M	O	D	U	S	O	P	E	R	A	N	D	I	■	N	O	G	R	E	A	T	S	H	A	K	E	S	■
E	■	O	■	E	■	P	■	A	■	O	■	A	■	A	■	O	■	V	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	O	■
N	E	W	E	L	P	O	S	T	■	G	U	N	S	L	I	N	G	E	R	■	B	R	E	T	O	N	■

The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books is D.R. Shenton, of Strathpeffer, Ross-shire

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q **I recently had some decorating done in my bedroom and one of the painters, without asking, went into my en suite bathroom to use the loo, and not only left the seat up but a couple of drops of urine on the rim as well. I am afraid I threw a bit of a wobbly and made him clean the offending marks (he was totally unapologetic and pretty sulky), and I protested that he had no right to enter my bathroom, and that there was a perfectly good guest loo downstairs that he could have used. Was I within my rights to feel that my private space had been invaded, or was I behaving like Margot Leadbetter in *The Good Life*?** — Name and address withheld.

A You were slightly, but you do have grounds for complaint. He should have asked which lavatory to use and certainly ought not to have sullied your private sanitary sanctum; such places are out of bounds to visitors, unless specifically offered. To avoid a recurrence, remember to set down your house rules in future by saying something along the lines of: "If you want a loo, there's one downstairs; do make yourself tea and coffee (I've left all the stuff out in the kitchen); and if you need to use the telephone, please let me know."



Q **I am the mother of an eight-month-old baby and a member of a well-known health club which has a crèche and good facilities for children in the dining room: high chairs, staff willing to boil water to heat up bottles, jars of baby food etc.**

My problem is that whereas the majority of diners are tolerant, I find I occasionally get glared at *when the baby makes a noise* (as babies do). I do not think that small children should be allowed to disturb diners (particularly in the evening), but surely in this situation one should not be made to feel guilty? — Victoria Smith, London SW6.

A Much as I disapprove of the trend of selfish mothers allowing their babies to tyrannise the grown-up world, I think those who glower at you are being uncharitable. If a club allows members to bring children, offers facilities specially designed for infantile needs and generally operates a family-friendly policy, it is obvious that these are club rules which all members should respect.

Q **Re your inquiry about what to call a live-in partner when introducing him or her: we Scots have a useful colloquial expression for this: "A Bidey-In" (as opposed to "A Bidey-Oot"). Seriously, what is wrong with "Consort"? It passes no moral judgment. It does not necessarily imply sexual intercourse. Quite simply, it is the person one chooses to "consort with". It has royal approval, ie Prince Consort (Albert, Philip, etc). And in English law, when somebody else pinches one's spouse, one can sue for "loss of consortium" — sounds less mercenary than "palimony". So take your pick: "Bidey-In", "Bidey-Oot", or "Consort". Better surely than "Partner" which can be ambiguous.** — Alexander Dunbar, Pitgavery, Elgin, Moray.

A May I say thank you to you and indeed all readers who have written in with suggestions. Of all recommendations your letter offers both the most unusual and the most frequently offered solution. The former, "Bidey-In", although charming, is just too regional for Blair's devolved Britain to merit national usage. The latter, "Consort", is pretentious and confusing as it can mean a companion without any sexual implications, a mate with very definite physical associations or, most usually, a spouse.

So, I am afraid it seems that we are stuck with prosaic old "partner".

Q **Has the convention that a subscription to a letter consisting of initial(s) then surname indicates male, and that a woman parenthetically puts her marital status (or, more recently, Ms) after, gone out of fashion? Also, in this area, the "sir/faithfully" "name/sincerely" has all but disappeared.** — E.W. Lighton, Crewe, Cheshire.

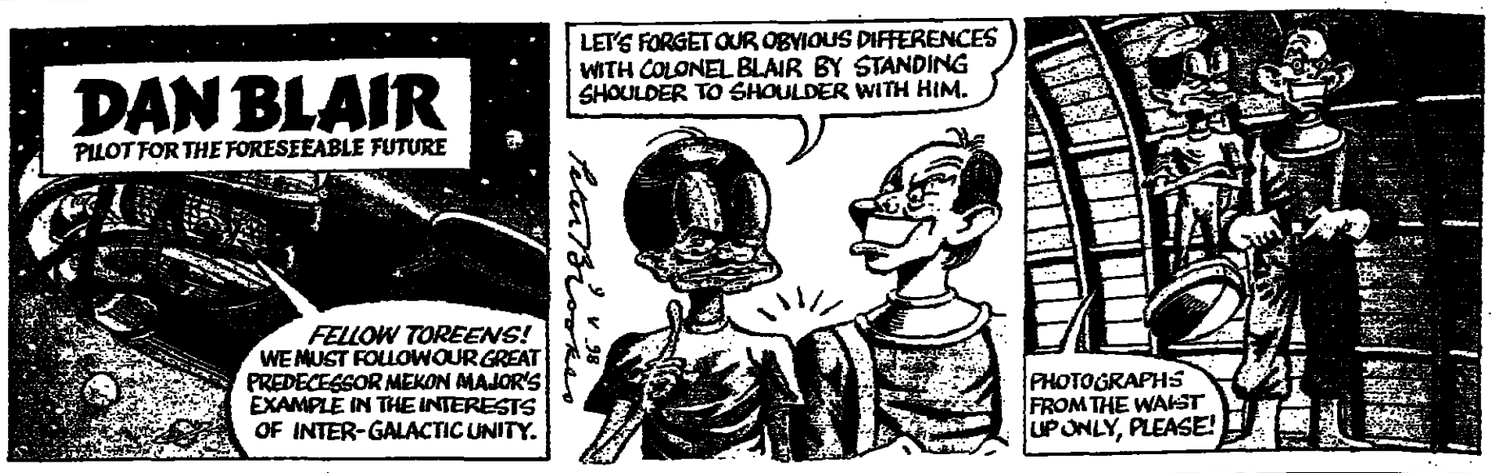
A The model you describe is less used than before but remains acceptable and helpful, although I nowadays recommend people signing with their full name rather than using initials.

As for your "sir/faithfully" "name/sincerely" dilemma, such conventions are still correct form and are much more widely employed than you suspect.

Q ***In the arts pages of the more* pretentious broadsheet newspapers, it is the custom to refer to females under consideration by their surnames alone ("Paltrow", "Winslet"). I regarded this as cold and condescending, part of the unloving regime of English boys' boarding schools. I would have thought it was common courtesy to preface the lady's surname with either her title or her first name.** — Gordon Stewart, Buckinghamshire.

A Equal opportunities and copy consistency, not the conventions in boys' boarding schools, are the factors that are responsible for the demise of these small gallantries.

● *The author is Associate Editor of GQ*



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

TRIBAR
a. Chocolate, toffee and biscuit sweet
b. A concrete breakwater block
c. A light aircraft control lever

PENETRANCE
a. Custody
b. A hypnotic state
c. Gene effect

NEBECISM
a. Night blindness
b. Love of calligraphy
c. Evolutionary theory

RENDZINA
a. Greek wine
b. Earth soil
c. A part in Figaro

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

"A new source of wealth is not material, it is information, knowledge applied to work to create value." Walter Wriston from *The Twilight of Sovereignty*. "The real value of knowledge-intensive companies cannot be determined only by traditional accounting measures. The worth of an Intel or Microsoft lies not in bricks and mortar, or even in inventories, but in ... intellectual capital. Microsoft, an $8bn company, announces its Windows 95 operating system and sees its stock climb to more than $100 per share, making the company more valuable than Chrysler or Boeing." From *Intellectual Capital* by Leif Edvinsson.

Question 1
What is the approximate weight of the average human brain?

Question 2
Who said the following and where?
"In my youth," Father William replied to his son, "I feared it might injure the brain;
But now that I am perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again."

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

Much of my knowledge of the early history of crosswords comes from Roger Millington's *The Strange World of the Crossword* (Hobbs, 1974) and Michelle Arnot's *A History of the Crossword Puzzle* (Macmillan, 1982). To pick up the story, in 1924, fledgeling publishers Simon and Schuster published the first crossword book in response to a query from the former's Aunt Wixie who wanted one for her addicted daughter. Such was the success of this venture that, within a year, three such books had amassed sales of more than 400,000. The impact of the craze was manifested in such events as the imposition by a Chicago judge of a limit of three puzzles a day on the husband of a distraught "crossword widow"; many other examples may be found in the books cited above.

In December 1924, *The Times*, in an article entitled "An Enslaved America", commented that the crossword was "making devastating inroads on the working hours of every rank of society". Too late. The first British crossword, fittingly the work of Arthur Wynne, had already appeared in the *Sunday Express*. *The Daily Telegraph* (1925) and *The Guardian* (1929) followed, and finally *The Times* itself yielded, the first of its daily series appearing on February 1, 1930.

This crossword was composed by the remarkable Adrian Bell, as was the Golden Jubilee puzzle 50 years later. Over that half-century American and British styles diverged, with American clues remaining predominantly of the definitional type in contrast to the evolution of the familiar British cryptic of today.

Next week I will begin to trace that evolution by considering *Times* crosswords of the 1930s, based on examples in *The Penguin Book of the Times 50th Anniversary Crosswords* which contains, sandwiched between the first and Golden Jubilee puzzles, one from each year between 1930 and 1980.

● *The writer is Crossword Editor of* The Times

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what was said when Hugh Grant met Glenda Jackson

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 13.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Philip Circus, of Weybridge, Surrey.

FIONA HANSON



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Unredeemable trainspotting vacuity overlaid by the gloss of management theory" — *John Redwood's leadership campaign boss Hywel Williams on William Hague*

"A bit like the *Titanic*" — *Edinburgh resident imagines the interior of the former Royal Yacht* Britannia

"They were so generous, so courteous. We simply couldn't eat everything put before us" — *David Mitchell describes how he and his family were kindly treated for 17 days by kidnappers in Yemen*

"No amount of football can make up for the lack of a normal life and female company" — *Vatican insider on tension within the Swiss Guard*

"Women are around all the time but World Cups come only every four years" — *Former Chelsea player Peter Osgood explains laddish priorities*

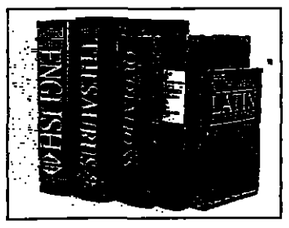
"One drunken person recording another bunch of drunks does not constitute business deals" — *George Harrison gives evidence to halt sales of a 1962 recording of the Beatles in Hamburg*

"It was all fantasy. It was like a gangster movie" — *Colombian TV researcher Adriana Quintana on Carlton's award-winnning drug-smuggling documentary*

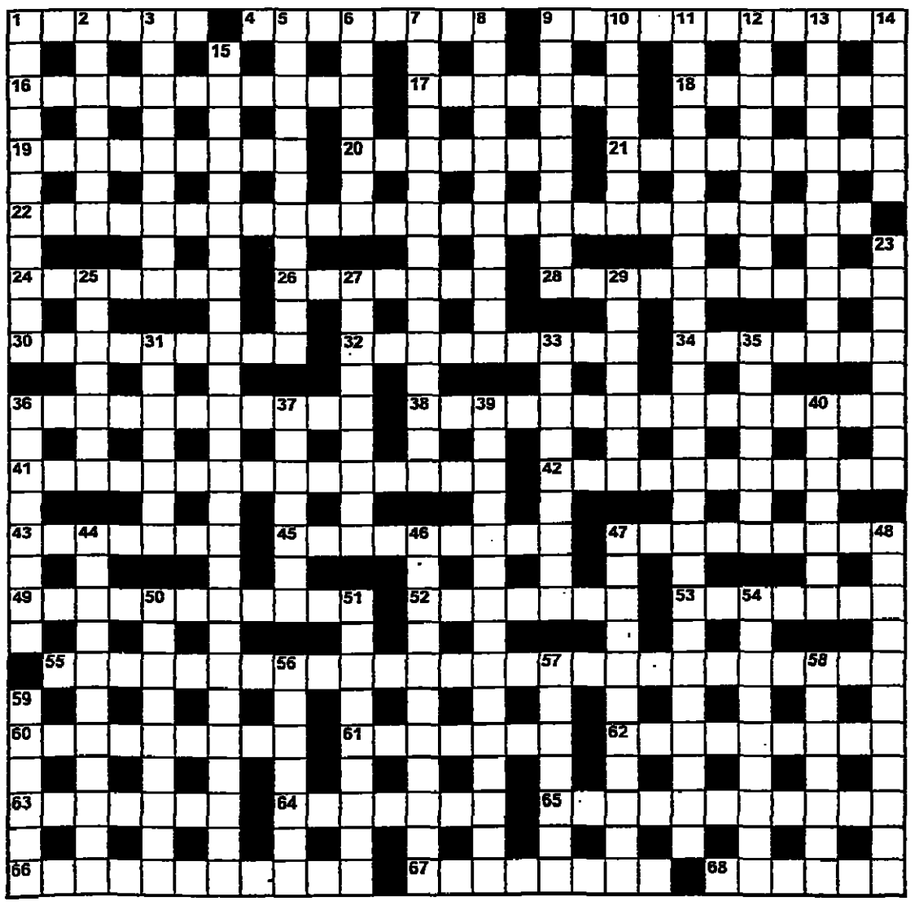
"The head appears faded in a bit of a mist" — *President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters on the latest portrait of the Queen*

"As far as I am concerned this is done and dusted" — *Leicester City's Neil Lennon dismisses claims that Alan Shearer kicked him on purpose during a match last week*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 165



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 165, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, May 21. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on May 23



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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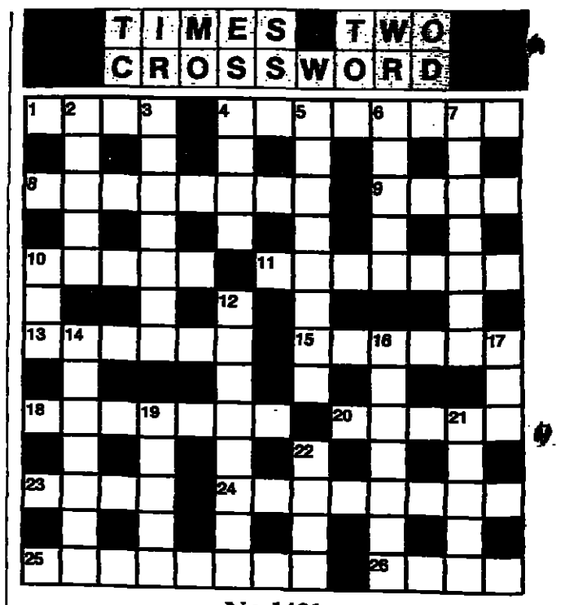
ACROSS

1 A majority may hold the French to be annoying (6)
4 Surpass indecorous account given by Henry (8)
9 100 nanoseconds without D upset harmonies (11)
16 Sailor's failing to approve of endless beer served short (4-7)
17 Prepares to make money (7)
18 Force joining international offensive (7)
19 One hears quietly sporting these? (9)
20 Bequeathed income to be repaid on death (7)
21 Observed from orbit? (9)
22 Journey that took hours up to 1920? (6,3,5,2,6,4)
24 Local variant from English county sort (7)
26 One put up for position under board (7)
28 Altar perhaps, that's provided for weary travellers (7,4)
30 Understand how to be arresting (9)
32 Site in Germany revealing a smart development in insecticide (9)
34 Girl at that point leading on appeal (7)
36 Smallest amount with BSE ultimately to be of concern in *spinal cord? (5,6)*
38 Blimey! Tripe ain't prepared for toughness (15)
41 Anyone could upset Don, Cath, Dirk, and Mary (3,4,3,5)
42 What's girl reading Armenian, Greek, Latin, or Turkish, primarily? (11)
43 One of the parakeets flew up all around (7)
45 One often spouting from the tube? (9)
47 Mere inspiration was enough for us (4,5)
49 Messed about round Scottish island feeling awkward (11)
52 It's reported alcohol deceives a girl (7)
53 Young girl working as model (7)
55 An air of speculation in capital? (5,3,7,2,1,3)
60 Constructor of comic images (9)
61 State of rose variety — not something associated with Chelsea? (7)
62 Offers up one, two thousand old former shillings (9)
63 What I can be for Indian leader (7)
64 Wind-borne harpy? (7)
65 Good shot with side of head on way to the bar (5,6)
66 *Setting of motorway looked at* before nasty incident (4-2-5)
67 Constant quality of poetic end to day by loch (5)
68 Searching analysis about editor's good reputation (6)

DOWN

1 With which John Wayne was frequently shot (5,6)
2 Insane keeping a navy in Swiss lakeside town (7)
3 A swell song? (3,6)
5 Specs and dentures — neither wholly badly lacking esteem (11)
6 *Carving set up above with rest* inside (7)
7 Soldier after excellent coloured beer — a man's best friend? (8,7)
8 These servers dropping one could be the origins of burns (4,7)
9 I will hold diamonds in game — without small ones (9)
10 Fetches in info on rising savings (4,3)
11 Shocked statement on potential rise in consumption in the workhouse (6,5,3,5,3,4)
12 Playing darts, lead with legs wide apart (9)
13 Such products haven't passed a beastly test (7-4)
14 Boyfriend in uniform (6)
15 Perversely, some think a giant cedar's small in part of Jerusalem (5,5,4,7,5)
23 Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose? (8)
25 Cult of bizarre worship, having inverted leader? (7)
27 Hard pondering nearly affected chemical in brain (9)
29 Goes round lists inserting note (7)
31 Prophet keeping Daniel from lamentations (7)
33 Knocked up a ton twice? Right, I'll do the commentary (9)
35 Piece of fruit I note wrapped in crumpled paper (7)
36 What has a mattress filled by springs? (8)
37 Books depicted in tapestry? So much the worse for Bayeux (4,3)
39 Examination on knowledge in say, chemistry (8,7)
40 Good man's left quiet complaint (7)
44 Divisions of group advance over lines (11)
46 Does retriever get it at bottom of mine? (11)
47 Caligula's rule of revenge (3,8)
48 Feeling of personal worth might be less perfect (4-7)
50 *Waterproof polish has to be on* the increase (9)
51 Low note went up in pitch when sounded, made extremely cold (4-5)
54 Not all of Tolkein's realm exists in one's head (6,3)
56 Worker trapped in unenterprising *US city* (5,2)
57 Verdi's operas are so national (7)
58 No time to record on a desk-top jotter (7)
59 Heavy metal — so mum and I fall out (6)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1401

ACROSS

1 WI citrus fruit (4)
4 Leonid —, 70s USSR chief (8)
8 Endurance; G&S operetta (8)
9 Drink too much (4)
10 Relax; area of authority (5)
11 Of the stars (7)
13 Responsible (for crime) (6)
15 Way of speaking; mark over letter (6)
18 Sailors' spear (7)
20 Antipodean soldier (5)
23 Row, level (of seats) (4)
24 Rain protector (8)
25 Tobias —, *Random, Pickle* author (8)
26 Two-master; a jolly-boat (4)

DOWN

2 Fruit; type of shot (5)
3 First (letter) (7)
4 Rely; riverside (4)
5 Occurring in due course (8)
6 Commercial lodging (5)
7 Make clear (7)
10 Apparatus; equip (vessel) (3)
12 The focus of all eyes (8)
14 Element U (7)
16 Tinned-goods factory (7)
17 Nervous twitch (3)
19 Extreme danger (5)
21 Give permission for (5)
22 Be right next to (4)

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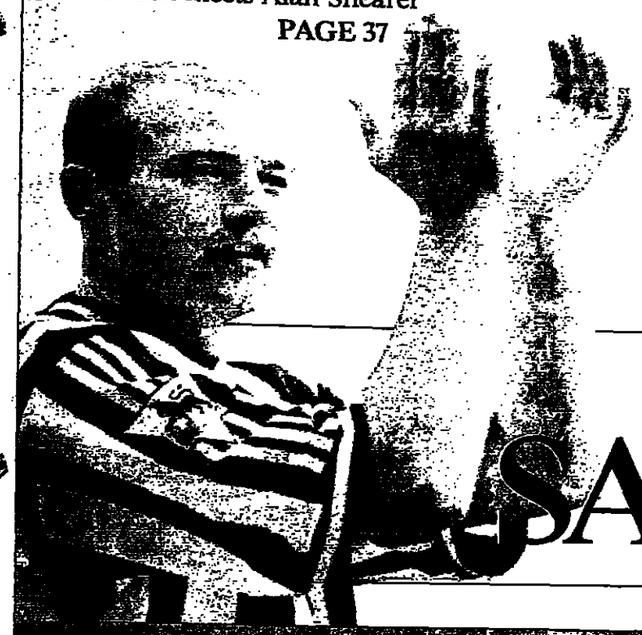
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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

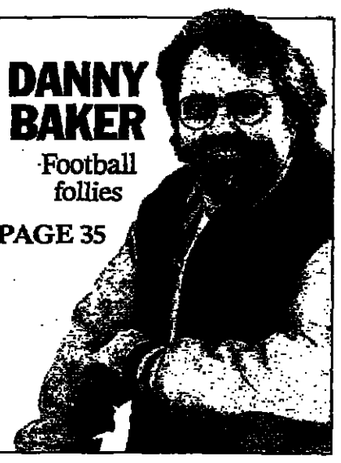
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A GREAT CLUB TREMBLES AS THE TRAPDOOR OPENS

Everton staring into the abyss

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A PALL of decay hung over the Goodison Road yesterday. On one side, a burst football, ripped open as though it had been disembowelled, lay in the gutter. Mary's Cafe was boarded up with sheets of corrugated iron. Upstairs, net curtains, stained filthy black, billowed from broken panes of glass. Farther along, Susan's Hairdressers had plywood for windows. On the other side of the street, at Peter and Howard's Football Club, the gloom was so deep that the main stand seemed to have been draped in widow's weeds.

Everton may not be down yet, but they are almost out. A kind of anger and bitter exhaustion seems to have settled over the blue half of Merseyside as they scrabble to stop themselves slipping out of the top division for the first time in 44 years. Even the fund of black humour that has sustained them through so many periods of underachievement and subservience to Liverpool is on the point of running dry as they approach their date with destiny and Coventry City tomorrow afternoon.

On Thursday, in the hour before a press blackout was imposed and the shutters went up at the club's Bellefield training ground, Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, and three of his players were led into a lounge downstairs at Goodison Park for one last press conference. They made all the right noises about it being the most important game they have ever been involved in. Slaven Bilic even made some rather melodramatic allusions to spilling blood for his shirt. But still their melancholy shrouded all. They looked spent. They looked like condemned men.

Later, that evening, Peter Johnson, the chairman who has shouldered the lion's share of the blame for the club's predicament, harangued for everything from bad buys to a projected move from Goodison, arrived at the stadium to watch the club's young apprentices win *The Times* FA Youth Cup. They seemed to be mocking the mediocrity of the first team with their verve and confidence. As Johnson left, a chorus of young supporters' shrill voices screamed out a familiar refrain. "We want Johnson out," they yelled. "I said we want Johnson out."



Kendall's haunted expression reflects the depressing atmosphere that hangs over Goodison Park as Everton face the threat of relegation. Photograph: Paul Cousans

Even if Everton win — and that is a tall order against a Coventry team that has been transformed by the energy of its manager, Gordon Strachan — they will still be relegated if Bolton Wanderers win away to Chelsea. The London team, wracked by injuries, distracted by the approach of the Cup Winners' Cup final on Wednesday, may not be at their best. The whole scenario, the thought that their team may be about to follow the giant's path to ruin and humiliation that Manchester City have trod, is driving Evertonians to distraction.

At the offices of the *Liverpool Echo* in the city centre, the sports journalists have found themselves acting as de facto grief counsellors as well as media celebrities. For every distraught, angry caller wanting to know what their team's fate will be, there has been a film crew setting up or a national newspaper journalist on the telephone.

Dave Prentice, the *Echo's* respected Everton reporter, has been the father confessor, but he is pessimistic. "It has been an accident waiting to happen for the last five or six years," he said. "Everton have escaped before, but now people are beginning to think the unthinkable may be about to happen. The consequences for the club do not bear thinking about."

Kendall, whose drawn features make him look like a depressed monk contemplating a life of repentance, has spent much of the week defending himself against critics' barbs. "When you analyse a season, analyse yourself and what has been done, you think about mistakes that have been made, but I don't believe I have made many. I am not saying I am not in any way responsible for the postion we find ourselves in. Of course I am.

"You always analyse wins, defeats and draws and whether you could have done more. You think about whether you could have changed your team selection, but you have to get to a point where the team picks itself and that has never happened this season. I am talking about players convincing me that they should be on the team sheet week in, week out and that has not happened. But this is not a time to react to criticisms or point fingers. It is a time to be pulling together."

Liverpool supporters, of course, are blithely immune to such sentiments. Already, T-shirts are being sold in the city that have corrupted the logo of Everton's kit sponsors, One 2 One. "Gone 2 One," the new slogan reads. Taxi drivers tell jokes about Kendall going into a building society to withdraw some money, fainting, then being brought round and told he is in the Nationwide.

Cruellest and sharpest of all, one Liverpool supporter held up a sign in the Kop on Wednesday night as their team secured a win over Arsenal that guaranteed them third place. "Agent Johnson," it read, "Mission Accomplished."

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Natural selection or the art of managing nicely

LYNNE TRUSS

Although the tiddlywink league season was drawing to a successful close, Danish manager Soren Kierkegaard examined his team options with as much intensity as at any other point in the campaign. His London team had nearly completed a hugely triumphant year — the Slimfast Tiddly League Championship was now a foregone conclusion; the Winkie Vase was already in the cabinet.

But with the crowning Wink and Tiddle Cup still to play for, a routine league game against a struggling northern side still stubbornly demanded to be played. No wonder, then, that when Soren Kierkegaard examined his line-up options, he concluded that discretion was the better part of valour.

A bloke came into his office to empty the bins.

"You, idiot," demanded the manager.

"Who, me?"

"Ever played tiddlywinks?"

"You bet!" said the idiot, eagerly. "Ping! Pang!"

Tiddlywinks always engendered enthusiasm in the English working classes, Kierkegaard had found.

The idiot then mimed the trajectory of a well-fired tiddlywink. It was rather touching.

"Mm," said the manager. "Show us your thumb. Can you bend it like this? Or do this?"

Kierkegaard grabbed a pair of tiddlywinks and demonstrated the back-handed lateral somersault for which he'd become internationally famous when playing for Copenhagen Wunderwincks in the magical 1970s.

The idiot beamed with delight.

"As a matter of fact," he said: "No!"

"Doesn't matter. I'll explain later. Consider yourself on the team for tomorrow."

"Okey-dokey. Will this game be on carpet or lino? Ping! Pang!" He was off again.

"On Wink League approved double shagpile, actually. Think you can handle it?"

"As a matter of fact," said the man, "No!"

"Good fellow," said Kierkegaard, and slapped him on the back.

Luckily Kierkegaard believed that subjectivity was truth. And the nearer the Wink and Tiddle Cup Final came, the more he convinced himself that all his stars were unfit to play in lesser matches, simply because that belief suited him best. What if top-scorer Leibnitz performed one of his reckless tackles, swiping the opposition's wink (or even his tiddle!) and was disqualified? And how much worse if he suffered a dislocation or last-minute wrist strain? Leibnitz was such an optimist, such a baby. The risk must not be taken. So Kierkegaard made his decision.

He called his top-flight players together — Descartes, Bacon, Spinoza, Kray — and told them that unfortunately they weren't fit for the dull, unnecessary match, but would be miraculously recovered by midweek. Only Kray understood; the others looked confused.

"Tendinitis?" they repeated.

"Tactical tendinitis," he explained.

Each man waggled his thumb experimentally. It felt all right.

"We're fine," they insisted.

"Listen. Just take it from me, and no arguments. Descartes? You've got a long-standing hangnail injury, and I'm replacing you with the bin man. If you've got a mind-body problem with that, see nurse. Spinoza, you've got a patch of rough skin. Bacon — ?"

And so he went on, until his injury list was complete.

He watched his super-fit team trail off, their thumbs all in bandages, like white balloons. He felt guilty, but not very. His team list for the unimportant game now included the bin man, the cat, and Mrs Pugh from No 28, but it was all above board; there was no dishonour, provided the ploy paid off.

Outside his window he heard some fans singing. "When Kray lifts up the Wink and Tiddle Cup, We'll be there. We'll be there!" Not much was important beside that, was it?

Police presence to be bolstered at Goodison

MERSEYSIDE police will draft in 200 extra officers for the FA Carling Premiership match at Goodison Park tomorrow in response to rumours of trouble planned by some supporters, aimed at Peter Johnson, the club chairman (David Maddock writes).

Johnson will have a police escort from his home on The Wirral to the stadium, and be shadowed in his every movement while at the club. The directors' box will be ringed with officers, primed to prevent supporters aiming their frustration at the majority shareholder in the club.

Police have been tipped off about attempts to rouse an organised demonstration against Johnson. More than 500 stewards will also be drafted in, in response to fears that supporters are organising a protest that could include damage to the stadium.

Johnson is deeply unpopular after steering the club to its lowest point in 44 years. There have been organised demonstrations against him already this season, and now the club stands on the brink of relegation, there is a genuine fear that the rising feeling could escalate into violence.

When Johnson attended *The Times* FA Youth Cup final on Thursday evening — a game that attracted few fans — he was given an escort to and from his home and guarded by six officers outside the boardroom, with three more seated around him in the directors' box.



CRICKET

Run-outs hamper Scotland's ambition

By Kevin Ferrie

FORFAR (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire (2pts) beat Scotland by three wickets

AN UNBEATEN 61-run partnership for the eighth wicket between Tim Tweats and Karl Krikken saw Derbyshire limp home and so avoid the ignominy of finishing bottom of group B in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

For Scotland, it was yet another case of what might have been at the end of a day and a cup campaign which, at various stages, promised much more. Martyn Moxon, Yorkshire's coach, said last Saturday that he was impressed with the Scotland team's improved level of performance.

Two days later, after a disappointing batting effort, they reduced Worcestershire to two for two. On Wednesday, they had Durham reeling before going down by two wickets.

There was a real sense of optimism in the home camp at Lochside Park even though the captain, George Salmond, failed a fitness test on a groin injury. "We're going to win today," he said defiantly.

At various stages yesterday that confidence looked justified. With Scotland 84 for one just past the halfway stage, Bryn Lockie and Dougie Lockhart looked to have established a platform from which the middle-order could prosper.

Instead, a sad sequence of run-outs killed off the momentum and, ultimately, they had the ninth-wicket pair, Scott Gourlay and Craig Wright, to thank for being able to set any sort of a target, even if a total of 174 looked a long way short of par. Yet, in the event, another 20 runs just might have made the difference.

Derbyshire lack of concern was summed up, after Ian Blackwell's second over dismissal, by the way Adrian Rollins thumped James Brinkley directly over his head and out of the ground, before being trapped in front by the same bowler four overs later.

Wickets fell at regular intervals and only the vastly experienced Kim Barnett seemed conscious of the potential embarrassment awaiting his side. While he was in the middle it always seemed certain that Derbyshire would win with something to spare. But, when momentary hesitation saw him caught and bowled off a leading edge by Brinkley, the former Worcestershire seam bowler, the small crowd were justified in anticipating an upset.

At that stage, too, Lockie, as the only batsmen to reach the half-century mark, looked the outstanding contender for the gold award.

That both he and his side missed out, left only to take solace from having put together a series of credible performances in the competition, was down to the composure and commonsense of Tweats, the dominant partner, and Krikken.

"This is becoming frustrating," Jim Love, the Scotland director of cricket, said afterwards. "In three of the four matches we've been in contention for seven-eighths of the time, but I suppose we must take the view that there have been more pluses than minuses."

Dominic Cork, the Derbyshire captain, gave Scotland all the credit for making a match of it. "We're the professionals and we should have responded better, but Scotland put us under pressure and made us work," he said.

SCOREBOARD FROM FORFAR

SCOTLAND	
B G Lockie b Clarke	51
B M W Patterson c Spendlove b Harris	9
*D R Lockhart lbw b Clarke	24
R A Parsons lbw b Barnett	4
J G Williamson run out	20
M J D Allingham lbw b Aldred	12
J E Brinkley run out	0
†A G Davies run out	0
S Gourlay run out	24
C M Wright c DeFreitas b Harris	9
N R Dyer not out	0
Extras (lb 1, lb 8, w 12)	21
Total (49.4 overs)	174

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-84, 3-100, 4-108, 5-137, 6-137, 7-137, 8-141, 9-174

BOWLING: DeFreitas 4-0-18-0; Harris 8.4-2-22-2; Aldred 10-0-38-1; Cork 9-0-30-0; Barnett 10-2-35-1; Clarke 8-2-22-2.

Gold award: T A Tweats.

DERBYSHIRE	
*D G Cork c Davies b Wright	14
I D Blackwell c Davies b Wright	0
A S Rollins lbw b Brinkley	16
K J Barnett c and b Gourlay	37
P A J DeFreitas c Davies b Williamson	7
V P Clarke b Williamson	14
B J Spendlove lbw b Dyer	5
T A Tweats not out	42
†K M Krikken not out	22
Extras (lb 1, w 11, nb 8)	20
Total (7 wkts, 49 overs)	177

P Aldred and A J Harris did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-24, 3-43, 4-57, 5-79, 6-94, 7-116.

BOWLING: Brinkley 10-2-31-1; Wright 10-2-37-2; Allingham 7-0-24-0; Williamson 10-0-45-2; Dyer 8-0-25-1; Gourlay 4-0-14-1.

Umpires: H D Bird and M J Harris.



WINSTON BYNORTH

Ben Hollioake, the Surrey all-rounder, hands out heavy punishment to Mushtaq at the Oval yesterday

Surrey complete clean sweep

By Ivo Tennant

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss): Surrey (2pts) beat Somerset by nine runs

PLAYED five, won five. It is not a bad way for Surrey to begin their defence of the Benson and Hedges Cup. This victory, though, was not as simple as it should have been after Alec Stewart had made a century and Ben Hollioake 91 for, on a wonderfully true pitch, their later batsmen could not keep up the impetus. When Somerset were bowled out they needed only a further ten runs for victory.

The partnership that gave Somerset a reasonable chance of victory was that between Burns, who made 95 off 104 balls, and Reeve, who is not supposed to be fit enough to play cricket, who struck 60. They put on 158 in 29 overs, the coach cajoling his more orthodox partner into achieving his best score in this competition. Those who followed could not match that. Realistically, if not mathematically, Somerset cannot now reach the quarter-finals.

After the opening stand, Somerset not so much ran out of batsmen as out of batsmen who could hit the ball cleanly. There was no Lathwell, alas, and Rose was caught in the deep desperately trying to keep up with the asking rate. Mushtaq Ahmed managed some bold blows at the end, but to no avail. Hollioake collected three wickets and that, with his 98-ball innings, won him the gold award.

Not the batting of Burns, not Reeve, not even Hollioake, could compare with that of Stewart. This was his fourth century in this competition and, if any of the previous three were any better than this, they must have been mighty fine innings. Missed on 79 when Turner was not sharp enough to stump him off Pierson, the newly-appointed England captain reached his century off 128 balls with nine fours.

The conditions, as they so often are at the Oval, were much to his liking. The ball came onto the bat and, in addition, there was a short boundary in front of the gasholder. It is not being churlish to say that Stewart and Hollioake could have batted to the very end of the innings had they eschewed unnecessary risk. Surrey would have put the match well out of Somerset's reach had they done so.

As it was, in the last ten overs of their innings, the middle order mustered only five fours, losing five wickets. Trescothick took three of them, having Hollioake leg-before hitting across the line and Stewart held at long-off. No other batsman reached 20. The basics of run-gathering were neglected, which afforded Somerset an opportunity they almost accepted.

The analyses of the two leg spinners made for surprising reading. Mushtaq bowled three overs for 36 runs. Hollioake struck him for three sixes over the short boundary — one out of the ground. Salisbury, more prone to losing his length, returned what, given the heavy scoring, were commendable figures of 10-0-51-2. He dismissed Burns with a perfect top spinner.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

SURREY	
A D Brown c Rose b Caddick	19
†A J Stewart c Caddick b Trescothick	108
B C Hollioake lbw b Trescothick	91
M A Butcher b Reeve	15
*A J Hollioake b Trescothick	10
N Shahid not out	13
J D Ratcliffe lbw b Caddick	9
I D K Salisbury not out	7
Extras (b 1, lb 14, w 9)	24
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	296

M P Bicknell, M A V Bell and J E Benjamin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-225, 3-240, 4-255, 5-263, 6-281.

BOWLING: Caddick 10-1-42-2; Rose 10-1-49-0; Reeve 10-0-64-1; Trescothick 10-0-46-3; Mushtaq Ahmed 3-0-36-0; Pierson 6-0-35-0; Parsons 1-0-9-0.

Gold award: B C Hollioake.

SOMERSET	
D A Reeve c Bicknell b A J Hollioake	60
M Burns b Salisbury	95
M E Trescothick b Salisbury	25
*P D Bowler lbw b B C Hollioake	19
R J Harden b B C Hollioake	0
G D Rose c Shahid b Bicknell	14
†R J Turner c A J Hollioake b Bicknell	8
K A Parsons c and b A J Hollioake	12
A R Caddick b B C Hollioake	0
Mushtaq Ahmed c Butcher b Bicknell	26
A R K Pierson not out	2
Extras (lb 11, w 7, nb 8)	26
Total (49.5 overs)	287

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-158, 2-189, 3-200, 4-201, 5-232, 6-242, 7-250, 8-250, 9-278.

BOWLING: Bell 4-0-25-0; B C Hollioake 10-0-62-3; Bicknell 9.5-0-51-3; Benjamin 6-0-43-0; Salisbury 10-0-51-2; A J Hollioake 9-0-44-2.

Umpires: R Palmer and P Willey.

Maddy remains hard to please

By John Stern

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire (2pts) beat Minor Counties by 256 runs

DARREN MADDY must set himself awfully high standards. The sight of him swishing his bat in fierce castigation of himself would have been fine if he had been bowled for a duck. However, it was almost comic, given that he had just made 151 off 125 balls, including 19 fours and three sixes, and contributed to the second highest total in the 27 years of the Benson and Hedges Cup, and the largest since the overs were reduced from 55 to 50. The margin of victory was also the second best, in terms of runs, in the history of the competition.

This was Maddy's third gold award in this year's competition and although the Minor Counties' bowling, apart from the steady Marcus Sharp, who took one for 29 from his ten overs, was decidedly moderate, it was still a fine performance from a man in invincible form.

By scoring at almost eight an over, and then bowling Minor Counties out for 126, Leicestershire increased their net run-rate to such an extent that they now lead group A. If Warwickshire and Lancashire both win today, then that run-rate will be crucial. Vince Wells wrapped up the Minor Counties innings, taking six of the last seven wickets to fall with his medium-pace.

Chris Lewis's decision to bat first on a greenish pitch raised the odd eyebrow and when Maddy and Sutcliffe, after a bright start, added only 13 runs between overs ten and 15, it looked as though the plan might backfire.

However, once Sharp had been seen off, it was time to tuck into some tasty fare. Maddy's half-century took 59 balls and contained the odd flutter but, once in his stride, he smote the ball to all parts, his second 50 coming off 38 balls and his third off a mere 27. Two bowlers, Pennett and Oakes, fell just short of their own centuries as Maddy accelerated, helped later by a 30-ball 55 from Lewis and 44, from 29 balls, by Dakin.

If Minor Counties' bowling was ordinary, the first four overs from Mullally and Millns, for Leicestershire, were as bad. Millns was hit for three fours and a six in his first over by Ward and Mullally bowled three wides in his opener. After Minor Counties had rattled along to 85 for one in the fourteenth over, Lewis applied restraint, having Dean leg-before, and from then on, Minor Counties collapsed meekly, sliding to 126 all out.

SCOREBOARD FROM LEICESTER

LEICESTERSHIRE	
D L Maddy c Oakes b Fielding	151
I J Sutcliffe c Nicholson b Sharp	19
B F Smith c Rogers b Pennett	7
P V Simmons c Goldsmith b Fielding	37
V J Wells c Fielding b Pennett	18
J M Dakin b Pennett	44
*C C Lewis not out	55
†P A Nixon not out	23
Extras (b 1, lb 13, w 6, nb 8)	28
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	382

D J Millns, T J Mason and A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-66, 2-85, 3-175, 4-236, 5-279, 6-324.

BOWLING: Sharp 10-3-29-1; Oakes 10-0-96-0; Goldsmith 10-0-70-0; Pennett 10-0-97-3; Fielding 10-0-76-2.

Gold award: D L Maddy.

MINOR COUNTIES	
*S J Dean lbw b Lewis	28
D M Ward b Simmons	27
C J Rogers c Nixon b Wells	11
A Jones c Nixon b Lewis	0
N R Gaywood c Nixon b Simmons	14
S C Goldsmith c Maddy b Wells	11
†P J Nicholson lbw b Wells	3
D B Pennett c sub b Wells	1
J M Fielding b Wells	0
S Oakes b Wells	5
M A Sharp not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 10, nb 10)	26
Total (29 overs)	126

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-85, 3-87, 4-89, 5-115, 6-116, 7-117, 8-118, 9-121

BOWLING: Mullally 2-0-16-0; Millns 2-0-24-0, Simmons 7-0-27-2; Lewis 8-1-28-2; Wells 10-2-25-6.

Umpires: K E Palmer and J W Lloyds.

GROUP TABLES

Group A

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Leicestershire	5	4	1	0	8	23.32
Warwickshire	4	3	1	0	6	20.24
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	6	15.62
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	0	4	2.38
Northants	4	1	3	0	2	-6.87
Minor Counties	5	0	5	0	0	-50.57

Group B

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	6	8.75
Durham	3	3	0	0	6	7.06
Worcestershire	4	2	2	0	4	3.66
Derbyshire	4	1	3	0	2	-3.27
Scotland	4	0	4	0	0	-10.51

Group C

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Surrey	5	5	0	0	10	13.16
Kent	4	2	1	1	5	13.12
Somerset	5	2	2	1	5	0.43
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	0	2	0.12
British Univs.	4	1	3	0	2	-11.87
Hampshire	4	1	3	0	2	-16.39

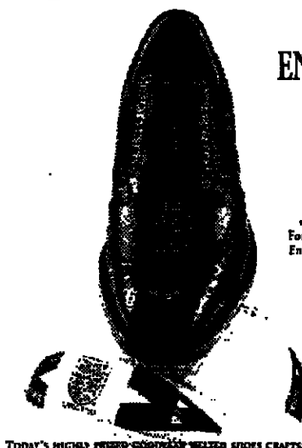
Group D

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	6	2.82
Essex	4	2	1	1	5	19.48
Glamorgan	3	1	1	1	3	18.66
Sussex	3	1	2	0	2	-1.53
Ireland	3	0	3	0	0	-33.29

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Great Britain prepare to play hard and fast

TENNIS: The Great Britain Davis Cup-tie with India in the world group qualifying round will be staged at Nottingham on a hard court from September 25 to 27. David Lloyd, the Britain captain, had considered playing the match on grass, but decided against it because September is too late in the season for grass-court play and India, like Britain, is a grass-court nation and would not be under any disadvantage.

Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, the leading British players, are at their best on hard or fast courts and the Nottingham surface will be similar to that at the US Open, in which Rusedski was runner-up last year. Victory would put Britain into the world group of the top 16 nations for the first time since 1992.

Bowlers on course

BOWLS: England are expected to win the Israeli international youth tournament at Ra'anana after taking a four-point lead over Scotland, their nearest rivals, yesterday. England beat Wales 8-0, having already beaten the Scots 6-2 on the opening day of the event, and will conclude today with matches against Israel and South Africa. Ian Jenkins, from Middlesex, captured the singles points when he outlasted Gareth Williams 25-21 in a 31-end marathon and there were wins for Darren Holder and Dion Auckland in the pairs and Neil Karge, Alistair Hollis and Ian Mayne in the triples. Scotland kept in touch by beating South Africa 8-0.

Jackson makes long jump

ATHLETICS: Colin Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world record-holder, confirmed yesterday that he would be giving the long jump serious attention this season (David Powell writes). Jackson, who said two years ago that he would attempt to qualify for the long jump at the 1998 European championships, is planning a series of early-season competitions and has set three main targets for the summer: to break the 30-year-old British record of 8.23 metres, held by Lynn Davies; to represent Great Britain at the long jump in the European Cup in St Peterburg next month and to contest the long jump and sprint hurdles at the European championships in Budapest in August.

Arsenal have second sight

FOOTBALL: Arsenal Ladies, the winners of the League Cup and FA Cup double, hope to clinch the runners-up spot in the FA Women's League from Doncaster Belles at Highbury tomorrow. Doncaster, who have traded places at the top with Everton throughout the majority of this season, have not played a competitive game for four weeks. They beat Arsenal 2-1 in the league last November, but were the beaten by them in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup. Everton are to be presented with the league championship trophy at Goodison Park tomorrow before the men kick-off their match against Coventry City in the FA Carling Premiership.

Horton struggles on

GOLF: Tommy Horton, of Great Britain, fought off a severe stomach upset to record an opening round of 70 in the Beko Seniors Classic at the Gloria Resort course in Turkey yesterday. Horton, who is defending his title, trails Geoff Parslow, of Australia, the tournament leader, by two strokes. "I feel sick, tired and listless and at the moment I'm frightened of eating or drinking anything," Horton said. "I'll try pasta, boiled eggs and water for the next couple of days." However, he remained optimistic. "It's nice to have a new face at the top of the leader board for a change. I could have been up there because I had plenty of birdie chances. I felt I was dropping shots when I was only making par figures."

Hislop in a hurry

MOTORCYCLING: Steve Hislop shattered the Snetterton lap record in practice for tomorrow's seventh and eighth rounds of the *Motor Cycle News* British superbike championship. The former champion, who is second in the points this season, lapped the 1.95-mile Norfolk circuit half a second inside the record set last year by Niall Mackenzie, his Cadbury's Boost Yamaha team-mate. Hislop's best lap was 1min 7.496sec, with Mackenzie, the championship leader, also bettering the record in 1min 7.881sec to take second place on the leaderboard. Chris Walker, who is third in the rankings for Kawasaki, and James Haydon, riding for Sony-Suzuki, complete the provisional front row line-up.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

DOHA: IAAF Grand Prix: Men: 100m: 1, D Bailey (Can) 10.07sec; 2, B Surin (Can) 10.15; 3, K Street-Thompson (US) 10.22. 200m: 1, R Clay (US) 20.06; 2, K Little (US) 20.49; 3, D Allu (Nigeria) 20.49. 400m: 1, M McDonald (Jam) 44.92; 2, G Hauton (Jam) 45.75; 3, J Brutch (GB) 46.06. 800m: 1, M Everett (US) 1min 45.12sec; 2, F Onyancha (Ken) 1:45.22; 3, L Rotich (Ken) 1.45.77. 1,500m: 1, J Kipowen (Ken) 3:34.09; 2, N Morceli (Alg) 3:34.34; 3, K Moses (Ken) 3:34.89. 3,000m: 1, P Bitok (Ken) 7:42.27; 2, *J Kiptoo (Ken) 7:42.93*; 3, *F Bayessa (Eth)* 7:43.58. 110m hurdles: 1, J Pierce (US) 13.37sec; 2, C Hawkins (US) 13.43; 3, R Kingdom (US) 13.47. 400m hurdles: 1, B Bronson (US) 48.34; 2, E Thomas (US) 48.45; 3, C Davis (US) 48.57. Pole vault: 1, S Bubka (Ukr) 5.80m; 2, P Manson (US) 5.50; 3, T Lobinger (Ger) 5.50. High jump: 1, C Austin (US) 2.28m; 2, T Forsyth (Aus) 2.25; 3, J Janku (Cz) 2.20. Long jump: 1, J Beckford (Jam) 8.39m; 2, E Walder (US) 8.24; 3, C Toure (Sen) 8.01. Shot: 1, O.S. Buder (Ger) 20.65m; 2, K Toth (US) 20.04; 3, R Virastyuk (Ukr) 20.37. Women: 100m: 1, *B McDonald (Jam) 10.99sec*; 2, S Fynes (Bah) 11.05; 3, I Miller (US) 11.07. 400m: 1, I Tirlea (Rom) 50.81; 2, S Richards (Jam) 50.85; 3, O Alokebi (Nigeria) 51.22. 1,500m: 1, J Maranga (Ken) 4min 5.94sec; 2, K Dukocha (Eth) 4.06.53; 3, N Mugo (Ken) 4.08.30. 100m hurdles: 1, M Freeman (Jam) 12.72sec; 2, D Allengreen (GB) 12.86; 3, D Rose (Jam) 12.90. Javelin: 1, M Ingberg (Fin) 63.26m; 2, T Chkolenko (Russ) 62.90; 3, T Hatastad (Nor) 62.31. Discus: 1, E Zvereva (Bela) 66.42m; 2, N Grasu (Rom) 63.05; 3, L Korotkevich (Russ) 60.86.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 6 Oakland 3, Kansas City 5 Boston 3; Cleveland 7 Texas 2, Toronto 6 Seattle 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles 4 Florida 3, Montreal 2 Colorado 1, Philadelphia 4 Arizona 1, Pittsburgh 8 Cincinnati 7, Atlanta 6 San Diego 3, New York Mets 4 St Louis 1. Postponed: Chicago Cubs v San Francisco.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Second round play-offs: Eastern Conference semi-final: Indiana 85 New York 77 (Indiana lead best-of-seven series 2-0). Western conference semi-final: Utah 109 San Antonio 108 (OT) (Utah lead series 2-0).

BOWLS

RA'ANANA: Israeli International youth tournament: Scotland 8 South Africa 0 (Singles: B Mallard 25 P Dixon 7. Pairs: A Lauder and G Campbell 19 S Jankelowitz and R Gerber 18. Triples: S Glen, D Burnett and S Dodds 28 E van der Westhuizen, G Lotter and N Rusling 19). England 8 Wales 0 (Singles: I Jenkins 26 G Williams 21. Pairs: D Holder and D Auckland 22 N Rees and A Price 16. Triples: N Cargo, A Hollis and I Mayne 21 A Bushell, J Britton and G Webley 16). Israel 6 Wales 2 (Singles: Y Liberthal 25 G Williams 14. Pairs: A Iron and R Jennings 21 N Rees and A Price 11. Triples: V Marcus, M Stange and Y Bocker 16 A Bushell, J Britton and J Webley 18). South Africa 6 Israel 2.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: Edgbaston: Kent 423-6 dec (N J Llong 110, R W T Key 89, J H Baldock 73, S Iqbal 52 not out) and 235-4 dec (Key 114, Llong 67). Warwickshire 363-6 dec (M J Powell 108, T Frost 87) and 293-7 (J Troughton 107, Powell 66). Match drawn. Final day of four: Worcester: Northamptonshire 499-8 dec (T C Walton 100, N J Innes 197, J Rawnsley 4-104) and 46-3. Worcestershire 321 (R M S Weston 94) and 222 (D J Pipe 66, D Follett 4-22). Northamptonshire won by seven wickets.

AON TROPHY (one day): Taunton: Somerset 276-7 (M N Lathwell 107 not out, A Steele 62). Hampshire 278-6 (D A Kenway 70, W S Kendall 54 not out). Hampshire won by four wickets.

THE PARKS: One-day match (50 overs): Oxford University 255-5 (B Byrne 68, R Garland 66). Oxfordshire 258-6 (C Knightley 82). Oxfordshire won by two wickets.

CYCLING

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, France: Dunkirk Four Days race: Third stage (107.2km): 1, A Gonchenkov (Russ, Ballan) 2hr 16min 16sec, 2, L Brochard (Fr, Festina) at same time, 3, M Piccoli (It, Bre) 3sec, 4, F Guidi (It, Polti) 5, 5, B Thibout (Fr, Colidis) 7, 6, R Sorensen (Den, Rabobank) at same time. Fourth stage (24km time-trial): 1, S Gonchar (Ukr, Cta) 31min 18sec, 2, A Vinokurov (Kaz, Casino) at 37sec; 3, Brochard 1'01, 4, A Kashpurin (Fr, Casino) 1'02, 5, V Ekimov (Russ, US Postal) 1 17; 6, J Durand (Fr, Casino) 1'24. Fifth stage (187.3km): 1, S Martinello (It, Polti) 4hr 12mn 22sec, 2, A Batti (It, Ballan), 3, S O'Grady (Aus, GAN); 4, J Svorada (Slovaka, Mapei), 5, M Zanotti (It, Vin), 6, N Loda (It, Ballan) 7. Leading overall positions: 1, Vinokourov 16hr 7mn 36sec; 2, Kashpurin at 34sec, 3, Y Berzin (Russ, FDJ) 52; 4, A Vierhouten (Holl, Rabobank) 1'42, 5, V Ekimov (Russ, US Postal) 1'53, 6, M Backstedt (Swe, GAN) 2'11.

TOUR OF ROMANDIE: Second stage (Saignelegier to Montreux, 183km): 1, F Baldato (It) 4hr 12mn 24sec, 2, D Rebellin (It), 3, *M Zberg (Switz), 4, G Missaglia (It)*, 5, P Bettini (It), 6, P Veisch (Switz) at same time. Overall classification: 1, L Dufaux (Switz) 8hr 58mn 12sec; 2, A Zülle (Switz) at 16sec; 3, Savoldelli same time; 4, R Meier (Switz) 17; 5, M Bartoli (It) 18; 6, O Camenzind (Switz) same time.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Final, second leg: Everton 2 Blackburn 2 (Everton win 5-3 on agg).

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Wolverhampton 0 Malvern 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 1 Wimbledon 1, Millwall 1 Tottenham 1, Chariton 3 Chelsea 2.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leeds 5 Blackburn 0. First division: Coventry 2 Grimsby 0. Second division: Lincoln 0 Rotherham 4.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Croydon 6 Wembley 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Kings Heath 3 Wolverbourne 0; Massey Ferguson 2 Dowd Lloyd AFC 0.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Barkingside 2 Hillingdon Boro 0; Islington 1 Beaconsfield 2.

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Aloysians 2 Old Ignatians 1.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford Sports 0 Wellingborough 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 1 Ringmer 3.

ATHERSTONE LEAGUE: Farro Caml Oeste 1 Newell's 1, Huracan 2 Boca Juniors 4, Espanol 3 Plasense 3.

COPA LIBERTADORES: Second round, second leg: River Plate (Arg) 1 America (Mex) 0 (River Plate win 2-1 on agg).

DUTCH CUP: Semi-final: Ajax 3 Heerenveen 0.

GOLF

SANTA PONSA, Majorca: Balearic Open: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: S Luna (Sp) 67, 70; M-A Jiménez (Sp) 69, 68. 139: M A Martin (Sp) 67, 72, J Rivero (Sp) 69, 70. 140: M Reale (It) 68, 72; A Cabrera (Arg) 71, 69. 141: K Tomori (Japan) 74, 67. 142: J Bickerton 70, 72, M Long (NZ) 71, 71; M Florioli (It) 72, 70; A Wall 70, 72. 143: J Wade (Aus) 68, 75; A Clapp 73, 70; P Broadhurst 71, 72; R Johnson 71, 72; M Mackenzie 72, 71; D Borrego (Sp) 70, 73. 144: D Howell 72, 72; V Phillips 75, 69; A Sandywell 70, 74; S Bennett 70, 74; P McGinley 71, 73; A Hansen (Den) 73, 71. 145: R Quiros (Sp) 69, 76; S Garcia (Sp) 70, 75; D Lee 70, 75; A Beal 72, 73; B Langer (Ger) 72, 73; M Mouland 74, 71; P Linhart (Sp) 72, 73. 146: Y Beamonte (Sp) 74, 72; A McKenna 68, 78; R Jacquelin (Fr) 71, 75; B Davis 71, 75; P Mitchell 72, 74; J Hawksworth 68, 78; M Pendaries (Fr) 72, 74; G Hutcheon 70, 76; M Campbell (NZ) 74, 72; R Lee 71, 75; A Forsbrand (Swe) 72, 74; H P Thuel (Ger) 73, 73; M Gontana (It) 74, 72; M Goggin (Aus) 73, 73; I Giner (Sp) 69, 77.

DULUTH, Georgia: Atlanta Classic: Leading first round scores (US unless stated, round incomplete): 65: M Calcavecchia, 66; S Flesch, E Toledo (Mex), 67: D Duval, S Verplank, G Hnatiuk (Can) 68: T Herron, S McRoy, 69: D Hammond, T Woods, D Toms, D A Weibring, R Freeman, J L Lewis. 70: B Watkins, C Rose, L Mize, S Gump, C Barlow, J Johnston, K Jones, M Kuchar, B Cheesman. Other scores: 71: T Dodds (Namibia), S Appleby (Aus). 72: D Barr (Can), B Hughes (Aus). 75: K Nolan (Ire).

TOKYO: Women's Gunze Cup: Leaders after two rounds (Japan unless stated): 137: Ko Woo-soon (S Kor) 67, 70. 141: Huang Yueh-chyn (Taiwan) 71, 70. 143: Y Moriguchi 69, 74; L Young-mee (S Kor) 68, 75. 144: N Noro 71, 73. 145: L Neumann (Swe) 75, 70; Y Kawanami 72, 73; Kim Mangsoo (S Kor) 72, 73; M Shimabukuro 71, 74; T Kimura 70, 75. Other score: 150: L Davies (GB) 74, 76.

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: At Basle: Group F: Switzerland 4 Russia 2. At Zurich: Group E: Sweden 1 Finland 0, Canada 6 Belarus 2. Relegation play-off: United States 1 Germany 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Second round play-offs: Eastern conference semi-finals: Washington 4 Ottawa 2 (Washington leads best-of-seven series 1-0). Western conference semi-final: Dallas 3 Edmonton 1 (Dallas leads series 1-0).

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: Potterton British Professional singles: First round: J Howell bt A Davis 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; K Sheldon bt M Segneur 6-2, 6-3, 6-3; A Lyons bt A Oliver 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; P Tabley bt M Ryan 6-1, 6-1, 6-2; J Beaumont bt K King 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; J Dawes bt C Swallow 6-2, 6-0, 6-0; M Eadie bt B Ronaldson 6-4, 6-2, 6-3; P Paterson bt A Knibbs 1-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1, S Brocklehurst bt P Luck-Hille 6-3, 6-0, 6-0; A Phillips bt S Ronaldson 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. Second round: Tabley bt Sheldon 6-2, 6-2, 6-3; C Bray bt Eadie 6-2, 6-2, 6-0, R Gunn bt Howell 5-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0; Phillips bt Paterson 6-0, 6-2, 6-1; S Virgona bt Dawes 6-2, 6-1, 6-3. Taylor Cup: First round: Dawes bt G Boorne 6-0, 6-0, J Tomlinson bt N Jury 6-0, 6-1; S King bt R McNaughton 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; B Ronaldson bt O Michel 6-2, 6-5. Semi-finals: Dawes bt Tomlinson 6-1, 6-2, Ronaldson bt King 6-3, 6-3.

RUGBY UNION

Super 12 tournament

Waikato Chiefs	35	ACT Brumbies	15

Waikato Chiefs: Tries: Randle 2, Relhana 2. Cons: Foster 2, Cooper. Pens: Foster 3. Australian Capital Territory Brumbies: Tries: Mortlock, Birch, Larkham.

(in Hamilton)

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Adelaide 18 Canberra 34; Balmain 18 Parramatta 21, Melbourne 14 St George 18; Auckland 8 Cronulla 20.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Eighth leg (Annapolis to La Rochelle): Positions (at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to La Rochelle): 1, Merit Cup (Monaco) 2,198.3, 2, Toshiba (US) 2,204.5, 3, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 2,225.4; 4, EF Education (Swe) 2,297.8; 5, Brunel Sunergy (Holl) 2,234.7; 6, EF Language (Swe) 2,236.5; 7, Swedish Match (Swe) 2,247.9; 8, Silk Cut (GB) 2,279.5, 9, Chessie Racing (US) 2,290.7.

TENNIS

HAMBURG: German Open: Quarter-finals: K Kucera (Slovakia) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-3, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; A Corretja (Sp) bt G Kuerten (Br) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

ROME: Italian Open: Third round: A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt D van Roost (Bel) 6-1, 6-2; M Hingis (Switz) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-1, 6-2; M Lucic (Cro) bt M Pierce (Fr) 7-5, 6-4. Quarter-finals: V Williams (US) bt S Williams (US) 6-4, 6-2; Sánchez Vicario bt L Raymond (US) 6-7, 6-1, 6-2; Hingis bt A Koumikova (Russ) 6-2, 6-4.

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Red Clay Championships: Second round: J van Herck (Bel) bt S Campbell (US) 7-5, 6-0; S Grosjean (Fr) bt D van Scheppingen (Holl) 6-1, 7-6; J Gimelstob (US) bt W Black (Zim) 6-1, 6-2; X Malisse (Bel) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, A Ilie (Aus) bt R Agenor (Hait) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

مكذا في الارض

هكذا من الأصل

Lonely tale of lost hopes cast deep in a wishing well

DANNY BAKER



Last week's tale of Damned Kate, the woman who, in order to change Arsenal's fortunes last Christmas, made a deal with the devil and now has one foot firmly in Hades, has led to a stream of letters from people who made similar promises in haste and are now repenting at leisure.

Most are simply anguished shrieks of panic from those who made wagers and are now spluttering with outrage that the other punter has no intention of letting them off. There is Mr Alan Selway, of Edmonton, who promised that, if Manchester United didn't win the league by at least five points, he would eat a handful of dirt. The earth in question fills almost an entire saucer and has been kept under some kitchen-roll in the shed of a friend since he invited the contract last January. I am promised photos of the meal being devoured should Mr Selway fail to weasel his way out of the deal.

Then there is someone called "Vincent", who, because Charlton are comfortably in the play-offs, must enter a local video store during its busy period, naked, save a peaked cap and child-sized "bum-bag". More reasonably, Bristol City's failure to take the championship means that Stephen Jeffries owes Mark Triggs a car.

In the North East, the resolution to Sunderland's tussle with Middlesbrough sees T. Plumpton in for free beer whenever the fancy takes him for a period of three long years. He has just emerged from a two-year period of complimentary programmes and pies at matches courtesy of the same ill-starred gambler. Rather more dramatically, Boro's triumph also calls into effect the agreement made by two couples back in August, which, though markedly less glamorous, echoes the arrangement arrived at by Robert Redford and Demi Moore in *Indecent Proposal*. Sadly, there is no offer of proof by photos here.

Perhaps the most human and tragic evidence of the folly that comes from forging one's own fate with football comes from Neal, at the University of Wales in Bangor. Neal is a Bradford City supporter and one day, shortly after the futile and dreary 94-95 season, found himself on a day trip that took in Mother Shipton's Cave and Old Wishing Well in Knaresborough, Yorkshire. Dutifully, Neal joined the queue for the Magical Well and, although sceptical by nature and experience, he struck upon the idea of offering some sort of personal sacrifice in order to grab the Spirit of Mother Shipton's attention. Here is exactly what Neal inwardly promised as his 50p plunged into the depths:

"I wish, I wish, I wish if Bradford City win promotion ... I will always accept being single."

Now we move forward ten months. A last-match victory over Hull puts Bradford into the play-offs and, whatever they held, Neal planned a solid week of carefree celebration to honour the event. I'll let him continue:

"Then on the Wednesday, something shocking, unusual and totally unexpected happened — I fell in love. She was beautiful, clever and amazing and she actually wanted to go out with me. She even put up with my Bradford City obsession as I kept disappearing to play-off games. Incredibly, City made it to Wembley after overturning a two-goal deficit from the first leg at Bournemouth. History shows that in the final we met Notts County, who we beat 2-0, and thereby gained promotion. You can imagine how wonderful my life was. Bradford City had promotion and I had a wonderful girl who loved me ..."

But old ladies from the Middle Ages don't get caves and wishing wells named after them simply for being mildly eccentric and sporting a prominent wart. Mother Shipton's boney fingers came reaching back up the well. For Neal's girl was an American, here on student exchange, and exactly one week after the cheers at Wembley had faded away, she announced to Neal that she suddenly felt homesick and that the next exams in Bangor would be her last. Oh she would write, of course, and he would visit — in fact, if anything, the distance was going to make their love stronger — but as Neal's intended mouthed these and other soothing platitudes, her voice seemed to fade and shrink and instead, swimming in his ears, he heard the cackling rasp of an old, old maid ...

"I wish, I wish, I wish. If Bradford City win promotion, I will always accept being single."

"To this day," Neal says, "I have never had another girlfriend. Not so much as a snog ..."

This summer he plans to visit the cave once again. He is not quite sure why. He knows he could never ask for a reversal of the bargain, for that would require Bradford's relegation, something he still finds totally unthinkable. He is considering asking for the old seer's help in England's campaign for France 98. Or another little nudge from beyond the veil for Bradford, a nudge he feels he is, perhaps, entitled to. Whatever. He just feels this irresistible, inexplicable urge to visit the wishing well once more.

For too long a sacrifice/Can make a stone of the heart

W. B. Yeats

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.



Before demolition began, Steptoe and Son were able to escape from The Den laden with loot

Robin Hood strikes a blow for his neighbours

Though *The Times*, of all newspapers, shrinks from endorsing piracy of satellite television — a tremendous service and reasonably priced — there has to be half a hat off to a correspondent in Southampton who has found a way to spread the joy of Sky Sports around while not neccesarily putting legal tender into their altruistic coffers.

This man, who I protect as fiercely as Woodward and Bernstein protected "Deep Throat", recently purchased one of these devices that allow the signal from your television set to be sent up to your bedroom or out into the kitchen without the need for ugly split connection boxes and hundreds of metres of unsightly brown wires. The picture is just relayed there on the bounce.

However, it transpires that the device that Our Hero has installed is a particularly strong one and is no respecter of brick walls and TV sets not honestly wired for Martin Tyler and Co. So, come match days, Mr X's signal from space is broadcast in excellent quality a hundred yards both left and right of his front room into the grateful Sonys and Phillips's of his neighbours in the village.

OK, so far just a regular tale of happy accident and pirate broadcasts. However, here's where Mr X rises above the average man and into the ranks of those who make these islands a byword for forward thinking. As his neighbours sit watching the latest England fixture or big match from Highbury, X has found a way of "patching in" his tripod-mounted video camera and, come half-time, gives his own expert analysis along with, depending on their shifts, his brother, Graham, or father-in-law, Tom. Mr X writes that their views are often extreme, causing the telephone to go throughout the second half as the rest of the village calls up to take issue with their opinions.

The only black mark against our hero is that he believes, rather perversely, that the service is for football only and that when a number of local women asked if he might switch on a Julia Roberts thriller for them a few weeks back, he refused stating the broadcasts "were not a toy".

When a football tragedy is not a tragedy at all

I trust that all of us who support those clubs that make up over 90 per cent of the Football League — ie Not A "Big" One — were all left suitably queasy though satisfyingly amused by the commentary on the Stoke v Manchester City game on Sky. The idea that rotten old Man City were on their way to, let's be frank here, the third division seemed to drag out of the man at the mike a sympathy unheard in broadcasting since *The Hindenburg* exploded.

It was "a tragedy", "a great shame", "unbelievable", "eerie" and "catastrophic" as the idea was put across that there was some mysterious "they" involved at Maine Road whose malevolent influence had caused every recent City player to enter a kind of destructive trance.

Rich sides do not get relegated for poor reasons. And Alan Shearer's kicking of Neil Lennon was completely different from how players in lower leagues kick each other. He is frustrated, they are thugs. City are in crisis. Reading are rubbish. City will, of course, be back again, even if it takes another decade. Doncaster, a real victim of scandalous boardroomism, will not.

High price of odds and sods

Before the entire playing area at Anfield is returfed, the grasping staff at the ground plan to sell off the old grass at something like £1 million a blade. And, of course, the clamour by Scouse fanatics to grab a handful will make the Tokyo stock market look like a J. J. Cale concert. Now I don't want to inject hoary old phrases like "was it really so long ago" into the column at this late stage of the season, but was it really so long ago that, when turf was to be torn up, the clubs concerned allowed supporters on the pitch to simply help themselves to the threadbare remains of the old stuff?

Indeed, one of the more joyfully idiotic sights at the end of a drab campaign was the site of bumptious, ruddy-faced grown men departing football grounds carrying ridiculous 18-inch-square parcels of sod that they were convinced would one day have sentimental value. I know of one such supporter, *Under The Moon*'s own Danny Kelly, who was so determined that one corner of his high-rise flat should be forever Tottenham that he kept his pilfered portion of their pitch in the grillpan of his cooker. Here it could be watered and checked upon regularly while each and every new downward root was photographed, measured and marvelled at. Mr Kelly has no children.

I confess even I exited that last home game against Bristol Rovers (lost 1-4) before Millwall came under the wrecking ball holding so many pointless mementoes it was as if the Steptoes' yard had suddenly sprouted legs and gone on tour. Of course, when I reached my front door, tearful and distraught, this collection of stones, clay, glass, grass, sign fragments and paint flakes was ruthlessly edited, on the doorstep, by my wife.

All I have to show now for 30 years of memories at Cold Blow Lane are ten or so strands of dead, brown grass in a small, clear, plastic pouch, which inevitably requires some explaining when aunts come across it while searching for the Sellotape. Perhaps the most extreme case of milking the cast-offs came at Derby County, where, I recall, long before plans had been drawn up to leave The Baseball Ground, the chairman's office needed some new carpet. Derby's commercial wing swung promptly into action and the existing old Axminster was sectioned up and offered for sale at £15 per foot. It was gone within an hour.

How peculiar then to read in two separate interviews this week with Ron Atkinson and Kenny Dalglish that still the toughest part of a manager's job is telling the young apprentices that their prospects have not panned out. That they are no longer needed at the club. Surely, given the new booming turf'n'carpet counter within soccer's cash-rich-superstore, sooner or later the penny must drop and unwanted youngsters will be sold off, or at least leased, to completist fans who can then claim ownership of the ultimate plum. An actual player in the house.

OK, he might not ever have made the first team, but he could come with complete kit, authentic club contract and, possibly, a certificate showing the purchase to be drug and disease free. The only downside I can envisage is that a similar scheme could open up for players at the opposite end of their careers and I'm afraid the sight of Ian Rush stuck in a cage in the corner of someone's front room in Bootle is too sad an image even for a practical old capitalist like me.

The most unpopular person in football is said to be the Borussia Mönchengladbach supporter who yells: "Gimme a B! Gimme an O! ..." Now, thanks to the clear winner of our grand That's Far Too Long A Name For A Simple Football Club competition, the old gag will need updating. I now blush — my entry was the minimalistic Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Of Cardiff. Thanks to the efforts of David Platt — promise! — of Billericay, Essex, we can file away the 64-letter monster that appears whenever Germany's Bodenseedampfschiffsfahrtversicherungsgesellschaftfussballverein pitch up for a kickabout.

Spheres

MORE MAIL: A few weeks back, when we learnt that the first question in the referee's examination is "What Is The Correct Shape Of A Football?"*, I said that the correct shape of the Earth is truly an ellipsoid. Mr Martin Perkins, of Kent, writes to say that, in fact, the correct term should be a geoid. Later, a man exiting a London taxi calls to me that I should have said "spheroid" and when I recount this, one of my workmates fine-tunes the claim to become an "oblate spheroid". In the meantime, I expect to see a headline saying "Balls" upon this particular piece.

* *Answer: round*

GOLF

Compatriots a cut above waning Ballesteros

FROM MEL WEBB IN SANTA PONSA, MAJORCA

WHERE did all the British go? The simple answer is backwards. The Balearic Open was transmogrified yesterday from a PGA European Tour event to an Iberian benefit. By mid-afternoon, the leaderboard was entirely innocent of British interest as Spaniard after Spaniard put himself forward for consideration as a contender. Riveting it was not.

The lead was eventually claimed by Santiago Luna and Miguel Angel Jiménez, neither of whom are compelling sights on the golf course. They finished on 137, seven under par, to lead their compatriots, José Rivero and Miguel Angel Martin, by two shots. The leading Briton was John Bickerton, a little-known professional from Worcester, on two under par.

In the complete absence of anything else interesting to watch, one was left with the inviting prospect of seeing whether Severiano Ballesteros could make the cut. He did not, narrowly, but watching Ballesteros fail has the potential to be infinitely more absorbing than witnessing others succeed.

Yet again, Ballesteros was making encouraging noises about his game before the tournament began. Yet again, his words have proved to contain less meat than a vegan's fridge. Yet again, a question comes unbidden to mind: why does he continue to bother? The world of golf would be a poorer place for his absence, but surely the huge pride that is at the core of the man will step in some day soon and tell him that it cannot take any more.

For the meantime, his second round was full of characteristic Ballesteros contradictions. His best strokes — not that there were many of them — were as sublime as only he can make them, while even the bad ones still grabbed the attention. He remains a majestic spectacle, even when he is not scoring.

It was a day that was blessed, unlike so many European Tour days recently, with flawless blue skies, a gentle breeze and sun warm enough to give the epidermis a light toasting, but more than once Ballesteros invoked his unique ability to hoist dark clouds when things go badly for him.



Jiménez: joint leader

He lost no time in doing it, either. He desperately needed a good start if he was to remain at Santa Ponsa for the weekend. It came as no surprise, therefore, when he had a double-bogey six on the 1st, missing the green then three-putting. The bronzed face scowled, the eyes gazed skywards, the pathos dripped.

Not without the odd alarm, he then contrived a series of pars that was broken only by a birdie on the 6th. He pushed his drive 30 yards to the right on the 8th into an area of sandy waste, missed the green short and left, chipped short and did not make the par putt.

The great man pursed his lips and looked agonised, pain that was increased when he narrowly missed the fairway on the left on the 9th. He changed his club, unfortunately as it was to prove, came up a long way short with his second stroke, chipped eight feet past and missed the putt for par. Was this the last goodnight?

Not yet, not yet. Distracted with his inaccuracy, he saved par on the next three holes, but then gave himself hope on the par-five 13th, where he put his second shot to 25 feet, stalked the putt and holed it for an eagle three. There was only the slightest acknowledgement of his feat, but his step was lighter. Four under par, still in the tournament.

He soon changed that, finding greenside sand on the 15th. His short game came temporarily to his rescue, leaving the ball four feet from the hole. He missed, then failed to find the green on the last and double-bogeyed that, too; seven over par; gone by three shots. Oh Seve, how they will miss you this weekend.

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SAILING

Silk Cut held up by fickle winds

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SUDDENLY the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet has got away from *Silk Cut*. Yacht racing can be a cruel business when bad luck appears to play too big a role in determining success and failure. For Lawrie Smith and his crew, the wind gods have been unkind. Two days ago they were leading, now they are disputing last place and struggling to hang on.

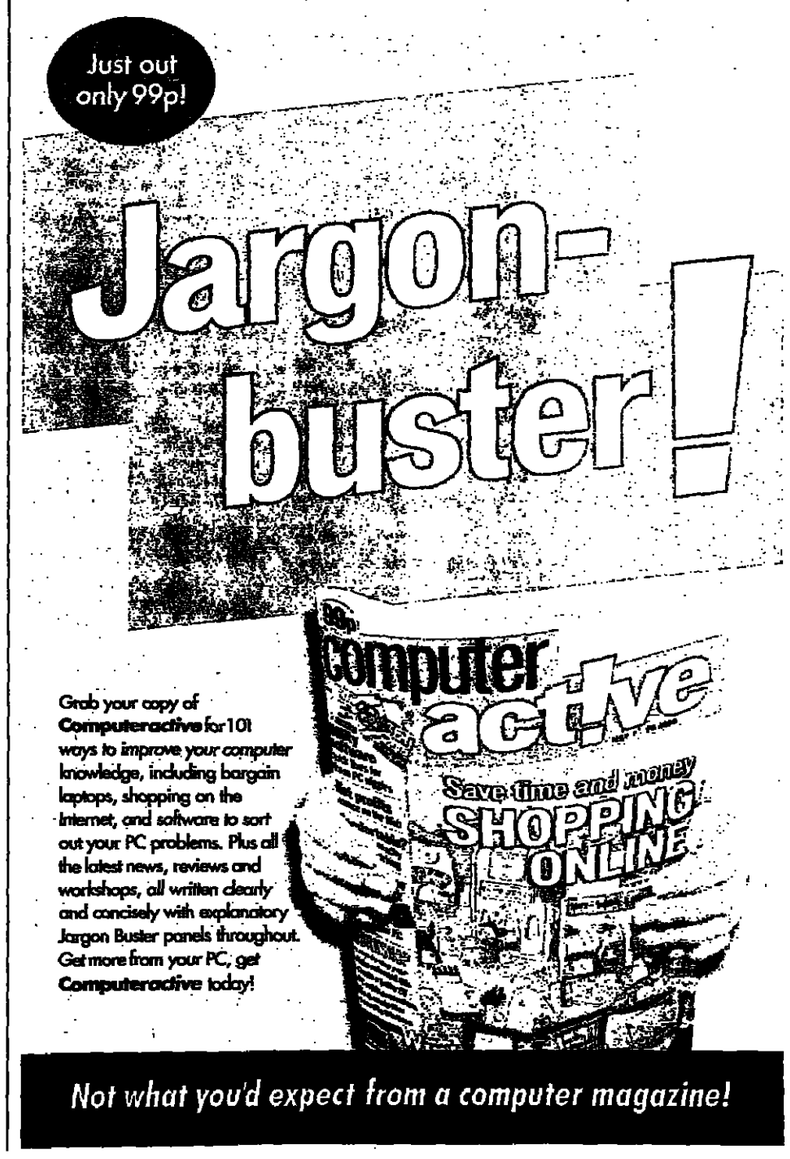
Having opted to hold the southern flank as the fleet approached the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and a troublesome high pressure centre, *Silk Cut* and her nearest rival on the water, *Chessie Racing*, skippered by John Kostecki, simply sailed into a hole in the wind that none of the other boats found. The two boats lost 25 miles before they were moving again.

Ado Stead, on *Silk Cut*, reported how the British crew spent lunchtime becalmed alongside *Chessie*. "So what happened," he wrote. "Well the breeze decided to disappear for a while everywhere within 20 miles of a big cloud, leaving us with the windseeker flapping in the leftover seaway. Eventually the breeze came back and we put a few miles on *Chessie* with our 'Code Zero' up. Now we are back on the heavy weather reacher with staysail in a building breeze, trying to catch up the miles that we dropped earlier."

There is still a long way to go on this eighth leg to La Rochelle and, no doubt, chances for the chasers to climb back up to the leaders, but *Silk Cut* was yesterday a full 81 miles behind the leading yacht, *Merit Cup*, though still just ahead of *Chessie* in eighth place for the leg. This is not what Smith needs if he is to finish the race on a high and pull *Silk Cut* up the rankings.

The high pressure system is having the effect of squeezing the fleet between it and the southeast corner of the exclusion zone imposed by race officials to keep the yachts away from the worst of the icebergs and fog. However, yesterday the boats were still on "iceberg alert" after a warning from race headquarters about a rogue iceberg that has drifted south of the exclusion zone on the northerly breeze. At night the crews are on constant radar watch and are using infra-red night goggles to try to spot lumps of ice and other debris.

This leg is proving as difficult tactically as any in the race to date and the various "races within races" that have characterised it continue to produce unexpected results. With *Swedish Match* down in seventh place, *Grant Dalton on Merit Cup*, the leg leader, has moved up to claim second in the overall points table. Meanwhile, Paul Cayard, on *EF Language*, is now in sixth place which, if the positions remain the same, would be enough to secure overall victory in La Rochelle. Both the all-female crew on *EF Education* and the Dutch on *BrunelSunergy* are profiting from the tactical sailing all around them and are in fourth and fifth positions respectively.



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Mark Hodkinson finds Barnsley fans in good heart as they bid farewell to the Premiership

Last orders at Oakwell but no call for bitter

LIFE AT THE TOP



Supporters club stalwarts, from left, Eric Bray, Ray Brammer and Andy Fyfe, manage to raise a glass with Bloore, the chairman. Photograph: Steve Forrest/Guzelian

Another drink, please. No problem, says the barman. He is unhurried, able to break off and tell his young assistant that the crisps are in the back, love, near the crate of Becks.

Where we might expect sullen demands for beer, more beer, with a chaser of gin and bitter — so very bitter — lemon, a flick of well-mannered, sober people request shandies, orange juice and, just occasionally, a bottle of beer: "Just the one, mind, I'm driving."

Barnsley, just a day earlier, had been relegated from the FA Carling Premiership. The annual dinner of the Barnsley Supporters' Club should form the epicentre of the town's grief. "It's like a golden wedding in here," says the man near the bar who has a joke for everyone. The remark is apt, for proceedings *do* have the genteel, dignified, china-cups-a-chinking air of a golden wedding. Also, everyone in the room is, for better or worse, married to Barnsley FC.

John Dennis, the club chairman, is asked to say a few words and he saunters between the tables, past the volau-vents and serviettes, to the far end of the room. "I don't think there are many chairmen of a team just relegated who would be made to feel so at home among supporters," he begins. His speech is short, he indicates that he is still hurting from the shock of relegation.

As he walks back to his position at the bar, head hung low, it is impossible to remain untouched by the warm heart that still beats within this football club. There is no clamour for retribution, no complaining, but merely a sanguine acceptance that everyone — the manager, the players, the directors, the supporters — gave their best, and there was nothing greater they could give.

There was a pact among them that they would kick and scream against the dying of the light of Premiership life, but, simultaneously, there was a fierce determination that the season was a special gift, something to be relished in itself. This is not to say that they do not want more of it, for Barnsley — the sequel, is already at the planning stage. Most of the supporters' club committee have followed the club from the early 1960s. They were at Oakwell in April 1973 to see Mick Butler score the only goal of the game against Exeter City when the attendance was a mere 1,638.

They can remember frightful FA Cup defeats by Rhyl in 1970 and Marine in 1975. These are supporters who have seen former rivals like Bradford Park Avenue, Workington Town, Barrow, Newport County, Southport and Aldershot slip into obscurity or oblivion. Relegation from the country's top division has to be placed into this context.

The supporters' committee — a retired prison officer, a solicitor, a bank manager (the Yorkshire Bank, of course), and a salesman — agree to pick through the bones of Barnsley's season. Where, just a few years ago, such a meeting might have taken place in a damp caravan propped above the puddles by bricks, we are among the padded seats and carpets of an executive box. Oakwell is in darkness beyond the glass panel, but it is possible to make out the impressive Ora stand to our left. The infrastructure of Barnsley remains.

Why has the club flourished in a town where hope and dreams were presumed extinct alongside the coal industry? "There have been two catalysts," Alan Bloore, chairman, said. "The first was Allan Clarke coming here as manager in 1978 and the other was the appointment of John Dennis in 1989. They have both been part of building the club up to what it is now." Dennis, a fruit and vegetable merchant, is venerated by supporters, perceived almost universally as "one of them". "A few years ago, we asked John if the supporters could have a seat on the board. He said to me, 'What the hell do you think I am?' " Bloore said. The supporters' club accepted the point, and the request was withdrawn.

Gary Willard, the referee who sent off three Barnsley players in their 3-2 defeat by Liverpool in March, is blamed for, at the very least, unsettling the team. It is noteworthy that before that infamous game they had won four of their previous five matches, yet since then they have won just one out of seven. The bitterness has now largely subsided, but the supporters club is campaigning to investigate the wider principle of referees and their accountability.

Danny Wilson's future plans have understandably provoked much speculation. "He is at the turning point. It would be very courageous if he stayed with the club now because if he went, he would go out as a god, and stay a god for life, as far Barnsley fans are concerned," Ray Brammer, the treasurer, said. Bloore suddenly recalled a remark Wilson made at a meeting earlier in the season. "He told us that he has never broken a contract in his life, and he is under contract here. I think he'll see it as a failure if he gives up on us now," he said.

Manchester United visit Oakwell tomorrow and their supporters travelling across the Pennines will witness a celebration rather than a wake. The official Barnsley chaplain, the Rev Peter Amos, will leave at half-time to prepare for his six-day walk to Birmingham where he is due to present a petition to the G8 summit. The Barnsley players and staff have all signed the petition calling on the world's richest nations to wipe out debts owed by Third World countries. They gave their signatures during the most fraught weeks in the club's history; Barnsley, clearly, has maintained its perspective.

Celtic wary of final twist as Old Firm blockbuster ends

By Kevin McCarra

IN GLASGOW last Sunday evening, there was an outbreak of civility. In one of the city's more Bohemian bars, supporters of Celtic and Rangers achieved harmony in their disgust with both members of the Old Firm. That weekend, Rangers had floundered in a defeat by Kilmarnock at Ibrox. Given the chance to seize the Bell's Scottish League premier division title, Celtic then faltered and drew at Dunfermline Athletic.

The consensus of disdain for every player at the Glasgow clubs cannot hold. Sheepish though they may be over their fascination with a blundering contest, those supporters know there is a championship to be decided this afternoon. Quality is an irrelevance. The crowds are in the position of cinema-goers rushing to a crass blockbuster.

The acting may be risible and the dialogue gauche, but the special effects will jolt you out of your seat. Explosions are guaranteed. Celtic, two points ahead, are certain to be champions if they win their home match with St Johnstone. Should Celtic fall short of victory, Rangers will take the title so long as they have beaten Dundee United at Tannadice.

The contest has not been so close since 1991, when Aberdeen were the challengers to Rangers and circumstances seem to be beckoning Celtic towards the club's first championship in ten years. Injury and suspension have deprived St Johnstone of the regular centre-half partnership of Jim Weir and Alan Kernaghan. Paul Sturrock, the manager, may feel obliged to pick Danny Griffin in that area, even though he has only recovered recently from a hernia operation. Had Celtic supporters been promised such a situation in August, they would have gambolled through the streets of the city.

Now, however, they may drag their feet a little as they make their way to Celtic Park. The equaliser by Dunfermline on Sunday, in the 83rd minute, felt ominous. Could it possibly be the harbinger of a tenth successive title for Rangers that would break the record of nine consecutive championships set by Celtic between 1966 and 1974? Such an outcome would be mortifying, given the Ibrox side's weakness throughout much of the season.

It is not just pride that would take a beating. The commercial consequences would be disastrous for Celtic, who can otherwise be confident that 50,000 people will continue their direct debits to buy season tickets. The club's players find that they are responsible for grave matters. Yet the pressures of the situation may not really be the most significant factor. Celtic's problems are essentially of a humdrum nature.

Craig Burley won the Scottish football writers' player of the year award and the three men who finished behind him in the voting are also members of Wim Jansen's side. All the same, that widespread strength has not compensated for the lack of a predator in the penalty box. Henrik Larsson is by far the club's leading scorer in the league, yet has only 15 goals in the competition.

Celtic are expected to win, but an early lead would make the task immeasurably easier. Otherwise, attention will drift to Tannadice, where Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, takes charge of the side for the last time in the premier division. His team has not matched the structure and concerted style of Celtic, but it is more dangerous.

Rangers have, for instance, scored a dozen more goals than Celtic in the League. Veterans such as Ally McCoist and Richard Gough, who will soon leave the club, hardly expected that their hopes of the title would last until the final day. Now, they are entitled to the faint trace of optimism that has crept back into minds that had been desolate at the moment of Kilmarnock's victory only a week ago.



Jansen: lacks a goalscorer

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	35	21	8	6	62	24	71
Rangers	35	20	9	6	74	37	69

TODAY: Celtic: St Johnstone (h). Rangers: Dundee Utd (a).

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South American rivals learn to march to the Brazilian beat

Chile and Argentina may pose as much of a threat in France next month as the World Cup-holders

Can a South American team win the World Cup in Europe again, as Brazil did in 1958? The individual performances of several South American players for Internazionale in the Uefa Cup final in Paris on Wednesday may be of some significance.

Not least was that of Ivan Zamorano. When Chile came to Wembley recently and beat a mundane England team, Zamorano was not playing; he was injured. Chile hardly missed him that evening. Marcelo Salas making monkeys of a plodding defence, scoring a superlative first goal — a minor miracle of technique — and tormenting Sol Campbell into conceding the penalty from which he scored the second. Sierra, who gave him the long, searching pass for his opening goal, was head and shoulders above any England midfield player in creative influence.

Zamorano also missed Chile's most recent match, when they were held to a draw at home by a Colombia team encouraged by the promise of the young Preciano, who came on in the second half, scoring twice. But put Zamorano in the form he showed in Paris alongside Salas and that could be a strike force to remember. Nor did the Chile defence, though it may have conceded Preciano's goals, disgrace itself at Wembley.

In Paris, Zamorano was at his most explosive and penetrative, scoring the first goal, hitting a post and setting up the second goal for yet another South American, Javier Zanetti, the midfield player, who struck a shot of terrific force.

Diego Simeone, like Zanetti a member of the present Argentina team, supplied the raking pass that split Lazio's defence and gave Zamorano his goal.

Simeone, now back in Italy after a spell with Atlético Madrid, where he dropped from centre forward to midfield, is an expert goalscorer as well as goalmaker. He can supply bullets to fire for two exceptional strikers.

One is Gabriel Batistuta, who has once more expressed the wish to leave Fiorentina, where he has been so prolific for so long, and has won his way back into an Argentina team from which the coach, Daniel Passarella, so obstinately excluded him.

Ariel Ortega, who scored a spectacular goal in Dublin and is now confirming all the promise he showed in the 1994 World Cup — this despite a sketchy season with Valencia, where, unlike his fellow Argentina attacker, Claudio Lopez, who scored the goal that beat Brazil 1-0 in Rio recently, he has failed to hold a regular place. Paris Saint-Germain are more than keen to take him off Valencia's hands.

Passarella has made it clear that he will leave his post after the World Cup, hoping for a job in Italy, where he played for many years. I am still not sure about him as an international manager, nor has he won over the Argentine public. It is surely rash to maintain his stand-off with as gifted a midfield player as Redondo.

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Having lost so surprisingly in Israel, Argentina strolled past Ireland in Dublin, then astonished Brazil by deservedly beating them. This is a strong and talented Argentina team, which could face England in the second, eliminatory, round of the World Cup. England's far from concrete defence would have to improve substantially.

And Brazil? The defeat by Argentina was a great shock. Denilson, the young left-footed midfield star, pursued by Inter and Juventus before he has even kicked a ball for his new club, Real Betis, will surely do better when fully fit.

But this, as Mario Zagallo, the coach, also knows, is an ageing team, Ronaldo apart. It is notable that Zagallo is already talking about the possibilities implicit in using substitutes during a game for his veteran players.

A certain desperation about his midfield was shown by his recall of another veteran, Raí, of Paris St Germain, to play — and impressively — against Argentina. Strange that, though he denies it, Zagallo appears to have closed the door on another talented young midfield player, Djalminha, who impressed in the Tournoi de France last year.

It was indicative that the Brazilians should choose to flank Zagallo with Zico, clearly to his displeasure. Zico has no coaching experience and, on the face of it, despite his fine playing career, has little to offer in his new role.

Brazil are not yet in turmoil — how could they be, with Ronaldo and Romário — but they are hardly such hot favourites as before. Argentina have taken the gloss off their game and installed themselves, twice champions in the past, as rather more than just dark horses.

Zagallo admits that the only real leader he has in the team is the 34-year-old midfield player, Dunga, who, perhaps significantly, missed the game against Argentina.

"We haven't anyone else with personality," Zagallo said. "In 1970, we had various leaders. Gerson or Carlos Alberto, or Pelé himself, or Piazza. Clodoaldo as well."

Yet, almost in the same breath, he insisted that, even without Dunga, there would be "no problem, we'd go right ahead. It isn't that we can't win without him".

Another 34-year-old, Bebeto, such a fine foil to Romário in the 1994 World Cup, still figures in Zagallo's plans. "He is different from all the others," he said. "He's a player of movement, touch, he never stays still. He can play beside Romário, though perhaps not the whole time. It's going to depend a lot on the player's physical condition."



Zanetti, right, showed against Lazio in Paris why Argentina could pose such a threat next month

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Striking a blow for the simple man

Alan Shearer has been making headlines for the wrong reasons. Is he really saint turned sinner?

Photograph: **Marc Aspland**



Shearer's public image is of a hero, a good guy, sometimes dull and mundane. A sinister side to his nature has recently come to the fore, however, and brought unwelcome attention

OLIVER HOLT



The small suite at the Durham County Cricket Club ground looks like a film set. There are cameras everywhere, some hand-held, some on tripods. Men fiddle, fixing filters around a lens. In one corner, a crew is testing light levels. A pattern of thick cable coils across the floor like writhing snakes. The curtains in front of the big picture windows are shut.

A coat rack has myriad shirts of different designs and sizes draped over it and there is a long cabinet, its surface cluttered with boxes of boots and more shirts in cellophane packets. And there is a clipboard with a written timetable on it — the afternoon schedule for Alan Shearer.

He walks in with that loping, hip-heavy swagger that has become so familiar on the football field. He talks briefly with an adviser outside, surveys the shirts on offer and observes curtly that someone is a "shit-for-brains". He wanders out on to the balcony, spots someone he knows below and yells a torrent of mock-aggressive, blue-tinged abuse.

For a second, still smiling at the bawdiness, he stops to stare at the two groundsmen busy rolling the cricket square. Shearer looks at them, working alone and unhindered, the image of unadulterated sporting simplicity from another age. Then he turns back inside and closes the curtains.

The simplicity that was once a footballer's life and which he has made a virtue out of following — he once said he relaxed on a day off by creosoting his fence — has eluded him of late as the ephemera that goes with being the England captain and the FA Carling Premiership's most expensive player crowd in.

Several weeks ago, he was supposed to have been involved in a fracas with his team-mate, Keith Gillespie, the winger, during a "golfing weekend" in Dublin. The joke doing the rounds at Newcastle United was that after Gillespie had been laid out flat on his back and bleeding from a head wound, Shearer had said that was the best right cross he had seen all season.

Then there was the incident two weeks ago with Neil Lennon, the Leicester City midfield player, when the Sky Sports cameras appeared to show Shearer kicking him full in the face as he lay on the floor. In the hysterics that followed, some MPs and fair-play aficionados demanded that he be omitted from the England squad for the World Cup.

On Wednesday, stung into action, the Football Association charged him with misconduct. A few days before, he had been accused of breaking the nose of Ramon Vega, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, with his elbow. And this is the man that Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, the disgraced Newcastle directors, knew as "Mary Poppins".

The excitement over his misdeeds has reached such a pitch that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, felt moved to launch his own defence of the man upon whom so many of his World Cup hopes lie. "I have spoken to him at length in recent days," Hoddle said. "I have watched the incident at Leicester many times on video and I am 100 per cent sure that what happened was accidental. I do not accept that Alan Shearer would deliberately harm a fellow professional."

The reality is that Shearer is a rough, aggressive sort of bloke, not a flawless do-gooder, not a saint. Against all odds, he has managed to remain a normal man, blunt and uncomplicated. "Despite the millions you earn, do you still consider yourself working class?" I asked him. "I am working class," he said.

He has got jagged edges like any working man, like any rugged centre forward. He gets kicked, he kicks back. He was lucky not to be sent off for what he did to Lennon, but his plea that what he did was unintentional, that it amounted to an exaggerated loss of balance, is plausible. Less relevant was the excuse Shearer offered several days ago that he, like his father who still leaves for work at 6am each morning, is committed to everything he does.

Mostly, he suffers because of the heightened expectations others have of him. The public expect him to score goal after goal without a blip; the moral majority howl and carp if he is anything other than demure and the journalists who clamber over each other to secure an interview with him long for words of wisdom that never come. Shearer is not a Ruud Gullit or a Gianluca Vialli. He cannot charm malevolence away. In public, he is prosaic.

What was the last book he read? "I don't read books." What were the last films he saw? "*The Full Monty* and *Titanic*." What does he do to relax? "I spend time with my family. I have got two daughters who are too young to know their dad's a footballer. They just want to play with their dad. I like to play golf, too, but apart from that, that's me, I'm afraid."

He does not seem to care what most people think. He wore a T-shirt recently that had a slogan on it reading, "I'm having a nightmare". He was smiling in the picture. Face-to-face, he is a mildly intimidating presence. His smiles are paper-thin, borne out of politeness: cursory, not something to waste too much time over. Mostly, he glowers in the way that he does on the opening credits to *Match of the Day*.

He could stone-wall for England, too. So the noises off, the crude comment, the yelling and the refusal of a cup of lukewarm tea, assume an absurdly overblown significance because they are almost all you have to cling to. When the camera rolls or the tape whirrs, the guard goes up and the control freak takes over.

"Yes, I do like to be in control," he said. "I do like everything to be laid out, to know what I'm doing. I'm very impatient. I like things done



yesterday, which is probably a fault of mine. I like things to be neat and tidy and organised. I say what I want and show what I want and I keep things private.

"There is a different side to me, but when you give an interview or when you speak to someone and you are meeting them for the very first time, it is very difficult to get on well with them, because it doesn't happen like that. You're guarded when you meet someone you don't know and so I'm exactly the same.

"It does not bother me that some say I'm dull and boring because the people that do know me will tell you a different story. It is very difficult to be open with people you don't know. There is nothing I can do about the fact that the real me does not get across and it is probably difficult to know the real me.

"But there is another side to me and I do like my private life and I am not going to talk about certain things and if people don't like that then so be it. I am in the business to

'He was lucky not to be sent off for what he did to Lennon, but his plea that it was unintentional is plausible'

play football and to enjoy football and that is the most important thing. If people don't like my style, then I can't do anything about that. I have been like that since I first entered into the game and it hasn't done me bad in the past, so I am not going to change now.

"To be honest, the press lads have got a job to do and you do it to the best of your ability and you are no different to us, and if it gets you a good story you have done well. I suppose it's like us scoring a goal. I understand that, that's not a problem to me. My motto in life is 'if you give 100 per cent then no one can ask any more'.

"It bothers me what the supporters think of me, certainly of the team that I am playing for. You are always going to get stick from opposing fans. That is a fact of life, it has been going on for donkeys' years and that will continue, whether it is me or whoever comes along in ten years. But it bothers me what my manager thinks of me and what my own supporters think of me because if they like me, then I must be doing the job I am being paid to do."

Some of this is trotted out like a mantra, a well-rehearsed chant that he has been through again and again. His answers act like an antidote to any question, subduing them, battering them into submission. None of this he does unpleasantly, just matter-of-factly, part of the job that has to be done, a duty performed diligently but without enthusiasm.

Fame is not a problem for him, he says. Maybe he can't take his daughters to McDonald's as often as he would like, but he can still go to the working men's club with his dad on a Sunday. "There's not a great deal I miss," he said. "It is a wonderful life to be a footballer and if anyone tells you different, they're lying."

The only way to provoke him into anything remotely spiky is to be confrontational. "Do you ever lose control?" I asked. It was a week or so before the clash with Lennon. "Not really, no, never have done," he said, and then with a warning smile, "not yet".

"What about Dublin," I said, "wasn't that a loss of control?" The expression changed then and became set and stern. "You don't know what went on in Dublin, do you?" he said. "No. Well, you can't ask me a question about it then, can you?"

The only thing left is to accept defeat. You can't beat Shearer so you have to join him in cliché. As a talker, a self-revelatory man of words, he is not even premier league. He saves all his best answers for the football field, where life is still simple.

Fulham rely on Keegan's touch

By Russell Kempson

WITH the league programme out of the way, the serious business of the end-of-season play-offs gets under way today when Fulham take on Grimsby Town at Craven Cottage in the first leg of the Nationwide League second division semi-finals. In Fulham's case, rarely can a side have gone into such an important game in such a state of upheaval.

Kevin Keegan, the club's chief operating officer, decided on Thursday that he should dispense with the services of Ray Wilkins, the manager, and take a more hands-on approach. It is a moot point whether his renowned cavalier style will work on such a tense occasion and at such short notice.

Mark Blake, the Fulham defender, already has his doubts. "After last Saturday's results, when we actually found out that we had qualified for a play-off spot, we've all been concentrating on Grimsby," he said. "This is a distraction and obviously something that none of us expected to happen."

Grimsby's problems are more physical than psychological — they play their 60th match of the season this afternoon — and, anyway, they have little interest in the affairs at Craven Cottage. "It is of no consequence to us," Alan Buckley, the Grimsby manager, said.

"We know they are a millionaire club, a very high-profile club. They spent more money than anybody else in the division and you can see that with the quality of their players. It's an added incentive for our lads."

Tomorrow Ipswich Town take on Charlton Athletic and Sheffield United play Sunderland in the first division semi-finals. With membership of the FA Carling Premiership as the ultimate prize, Portman Road and Bramall Lane will not be for the faint of heart.

The former match appears particularly close to call, with Charlton having lost only once in 14 outings and Ipswich once in 18. Sasa Ilic, the Charlton goalkeeper, has kept seven successive clean sheets. Ipswich lost to Sheffield United on away goals, at the same stage last season, and George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said: "The two goals we conceded in the home leg cost us dearly. I think the experience from last year will have helped the players."

"The crowd have been fantastic all season but the atmosphere in the ground and around the town in the last couple of months has been even better. We've had big crowds for many games and everyone is full of optimism."

In the third division semi-finals tomorrow, Barnet play Colchester United at Underhill and Scarborough play host to Torquay United. The return legs of all the semi-finals are on Wednesday.

Dalglish calls for decision

KENNY DALGLISH, the Newcastle United manager, has called for the case of Alan Shearer, the England captain and Newcastle striker, to be dealt with swiftly by the Football Association. Shearer faces disciplinary action after appearing to kick Neil Lennon, the Leicester City midfield player, in the face on April 29. "Why do we have to wait for 14 days?" Dalglish said yesterday. "I don't see why they could not meet today and get it finished."

■ In *The Times* football writers' prediction competition, the title race will go the distance. Nick Szczepanik, with a strike rate of nine correct predictions from 19, will take the title if his prediction at Selhurst Park tomorrow proves correct. However, should Szczepanik falter, Russell Kempson — inactive in Premiership terms tomorrow — will sneak the prize with his 13 correct predictions from 28.

TABLE

Name	Right	Wrong	% right
R Kempson	13	15	46
N Szczepanik	9	10	45
O Holt	21	27	44
R Hobson	9	13	41
D Maddock	12	24	33
B Glanville	12	25	32
P Robinson	9	22	29
R Hughes	4	10	29
P Pike	4	25	14
M Dickinson	3	23	12
M Hodkinson	1	14	7
M Henderson	0	10	0

(Qualification 10 predictions)

United offered Ortega for £1m

By David Maddock

MANCHESTER United are close to completing a remarkable deal for Ariel Ortega, the Argentina international forward. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has been told he can have the player — dubbed "the new Maradona" in his homeland — for £1 million.

The snag is that the money is regarded as a downpayment on a sizeable transfer. Valencia, the player's Spanish club, have constructed an extraordinary offer. United will be allowed to keep the player until October after the payment of £1 million. Should they choose to retain him beyond that, they will be asked for a further £8million.

Even that appears a bargain given the player's record. The 24-year-old has already earned 44 caps for his country, and cost Valencia £8 million from River Plate a year ago. He has made his mark in Spain with some dazzling performances, but has often been at odds with Claudio Rainieri, the Valencia coach.

He produced an accomplished display for his country against Ireland in Dublin a month ago in front of Brian Kidd, the Manchester United coach.

Martin Edwards, the United chief executive, confirmed earlier this week that Ferguson would be allowed a competitive edge in the transfer market. The United manager has already bought Jaap Stam for £10.75 million, and is now looking for a player to fill the gap created by the retirement of Eric Cantona.

United have given a free transfer to Brian McClair, the longest-serving player amongst the present squad, and Ferguson's first big signing after assuming the manager's role in 1986.

McClair, 34, indicated yesterday that he would seek to continue playing. "I have two good years left in me, and I will try to find another club," he said. Everton, Celtic and Manchester City have all already expressed an interest in the player.

Liverpool have fined Patrik Berger £30,000 and put him on the transfer list after the Czech international refused to play in a reserve team match at Leeds United last week. Jamie Redknapp will sign a new contract on Monday, committing the England midfielder to Anfield for a further five years.

Markus Babbel, Bayern Munich's Germany international, defender, hinted yesterday that he was keen to join Newcastle United during the summer, and St James' Park is also the preferred destination for Stephane Guivarc'h, the France international forward. The 27-year-old has also interested Middlesbrough, who have made a higher offer to Auxerre, the player's club, but Guivarc'h will insist on joining Newcastle.



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

EVERTON
v
COVENTRY CITY
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt

Goodison Park will be filled with fear and trepidation tomorrow afternoon as Everton desperately try to preserve the second-longest unbroken spell of service in England's top division. Even if they beat Coventry City, a thousand transistor radios will still be pressed to a thousand ears, relying on good news from Stamford Bridge, where Bolton Wanderers may put matters out of reach.

For almost the first time this season, Everton have found their destiny ripped from their hands as the last day approaches. If Bolton win in West London, Everton will be relegated to the Nationwide League first division. Predictably, Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, has been insisting that the other match must be ignored, that Everton must win first and worry later.

The problem is that Coventry are no longer an easy touch. They may not be fighting for their own survival, a tradition that they have established over the past decade, but they have the merest hint of a chance of qualifying for Europe. It is enough of a hint, anyway, for Gordon Strachan, their manager, to ensure that they are fully motivated.

Coventry lie in eleventh place in the Premiership, but the worry for Everton lies primarily in the pace of their attack. Torn to pieces by the speed of Marc Overmars in the 4-0 away defeat by Arsenal last Sunday, Kendall will be aware that Darren Huckerby possesses similar attributes and he may pick his side accordingly.

However, the matter may be academic as Huckerby damaged an ankle in a practice session at the start of the week and has not trained since. Strachan said: "I would like Huckerby to be fit to play, but if he can't, then young Simon Haworth will be in the frame." The other alternative, Viorel Moldovan, is with the Romania World Cup squad.

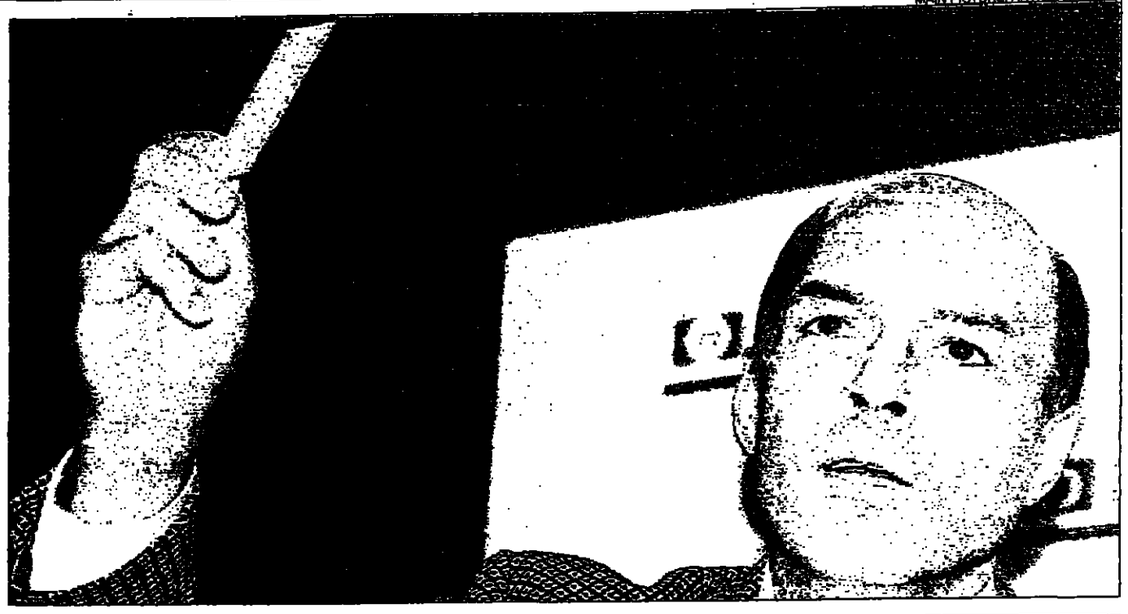
Kendall's team selections have been somewhat capricious this season, but it would not be a surprise if he chose to play with a back four rather than the three centre backs he started with in North London. He may retain Slaven Bilic in the protective position in front of the defence and hope he performs his task rather better than he did seven days ago.

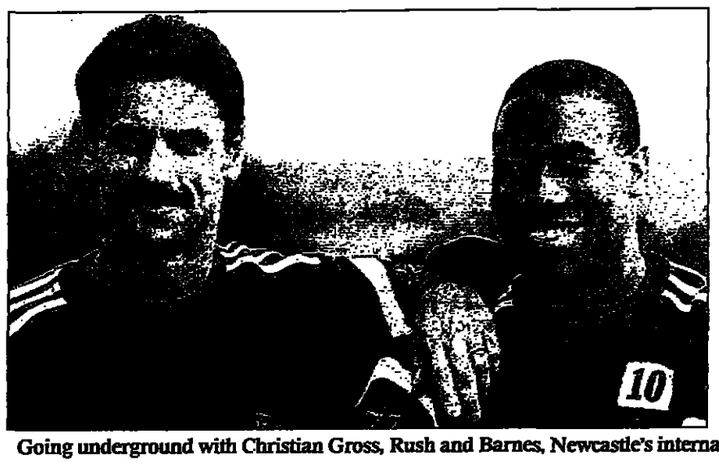
Perhaps Duncan Ferguson will raise his game in the Everton attack, perhaps Coventry will have one of their brittle days, perhaps Everton will surprise everyone and win. Somehow, though, it feels as if they are going down.

EVERTON (probable: 4-4-2): T Myhre — J O'Kane, C Short, C Tiler, M Ball — J Oster, S Bilic, G Farrelly, N Barmby — D Ferguson, M Madar
COVENTRY CITY (probable: 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, P Williams, R Shaw, M Hall — T E Soltvedt, G Strachan, G Boateng, N Whelan — D Huckerby, D Dublin
Referee: P Alcock.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: Everton to win and go down.

MAIN PICTURE: ANTHONY UPTON







Going underground with Christian Gross, Rush and Barnes, Newcastle's international bright young things, and silly the Fish

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

CAMPAIGN MEDALS

Well that's it then — the end of another long and incident-packed season. By way of wishing 97-98 a fond farewell, here are this column's highlights of the season

1. The extravagant facial hair sported by Mark Fish of Bolton Wanderers

2. Aston Villa's record with Stan Collymore in the team earlier in the season compared to the stunning improvement when he became a long-term absentee

3. Leeds United contributing to the 1970s nostalgia boom at Stamford Bridge by having two players sent off and kicking everything in sight — and Chelsea squealing about it afterwards

4. The head bandage worn with hilarious effect by Crystal Palace's slimline Tomas Brolin against Leeds United that exploded on contact with the ball

5. Cliff Bastin's widow saying she wasn't too keen on Ian Wright after he broke her husband's Arsenal goalscoring record

6. Everton underlining their ambition to rejoin the "Big Five" with the signings of Mitch Ward, Carl Tiler, Don Hutchison and John Spencer

7. The number of times Barnsley have been described as either "refreshing" or "naive"

8. Chelsea marketing a "Ruud Boy" Harley Davidson motorbike for £20,000 just a few weeks before Gullit was sacked (well, it's cheaper than a season ticket)

9. Kenny Dalglish investing in Newcastle United's glittering future by signing Stuart Pearce, Ian Rush and John Barnes

10. Christian Gross flourishing his Tube ticket on arriving at Spurs (hope he got a return!)

11. Manchester United not winning anything

Compiled by Richard Whitehead



David Powell

Now the championship race is over let us begin a new one, to give the last day of the season a little extra interest. In a spring championship, taken over the past seven matches with one to play, Arsenal would be ahead of Aston Villa on goal difference, with Manchester United four points behind in third.

Perhaps giving respect to this championship Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is expected to field his best available team at Villa Park. Arsenal had more than half of their first team missing when their sequence of ten victories was ended with a 4-0 thrashing by Liverpool on Wednesday. Wenger will choose between Wright, if he has recovered from the ankle injury suffered in a tackle by Ince at Anfield, and Wreh.

Wright is keen to play to press his claims to appear in the FA Cup Final next Saturday and in the World Cup finals. Bergkamp, however, remains injured and is said to have only a 30 per cent chance of playing at Wembley.

Aston Villa, who have soared from close to the relegation zone since John Gregory became manager, need three points to clinch the Uefa Cup place that will arise if Chelsea win the Cup Winners' Cup final.

ASTON VILLA
v
ARSENAL
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

ASTON VILLA (possible: 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Grayson — F Nelson, D Byfield, M Draper, L Hendrie, A Wright — D Yorke, J Joachim.
ARSENAL (possible: 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — C Wreh, N Anelka.
Referee: G Poll

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.35pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to return to winning form.



Mark Hodkinson

So, farewell Barnsley, a soap opera of sorts, with characters aplenty and a storyline that endured longer than expected. At least it is some finale, especially since home supporters can tease their Manchester United counterparts with a rendition of Arsenal songs. Hopefully the ribbing will be good-natured and the game suitably flamboyant.

Danny Wilson, their manager, can choose from a full squad with Chris Morgan and Georgi Hristov back from suspension, and they catch Alex Ferguson, the United manager, after he has claimed to be "hurting" from missing out on the championship. The hurt has been compounded by the reserves being pipped by Leeds United in the Pontin's League premier division.

Presumably, the pain will subside with a summer spending spree. Jaap Stam, at £10.75 million, is the first, with, seemingly, Marc-Vivien Foe and Gabriel Batistuta to follow. Players ready to exit include Brian McClair after 11 seasons, and Ben Thornley and Chris Casper, two youngsters stuck in the gridlock of talent at United. Three pretenders have been promised a run-out, though Michael Clegg, Philip Mulryne and John Curtis expect to start on the bench.

BARNSLEY
v
MANCHESTER UNITED
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

BARNSLEY (probable, 3-4-1-2): D Watson — A Moses, A de Zeeuw, S Jones — N Eaden, E Tinkler, N Redfearn, M Bullock — C Marcelle — A Ward, J A Flontoft.
MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): R van der Gouw — G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, P Scholes, N Butt, R Giggs — E Sheringham, A Cole
Referee: P Durkin.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: 2-2, and lots of fun.



Ivo Tennant

It would be a fair assumption that, this weekend, Kenny Dalglish will be concerning himself primarily with the FA Cup Final next Saturday. But then, with him, nothing can ever be assumed. The Newcastle United manager returns to Blackburn Rovers tomorrow for the first time for a competitive match and there is no question of giving anybody a rest.

"We will have our strongest possible side out," Dalglish said. "We are playing for our pride and we have a commitment to our supporters.

"This is our most important game because it is our next one. It is the last of a disappointing league campaign, but I just have a feeling we are turning the corner and I want to win every game, even on the training pitch.

"This is the first time I have been back to Blackburn and I have some friends there who have been very loyal to me. I have a lot of feeling still for the club."

The one Newcastle player who is unfit, and who will probably be missing against Arsenal at Wembley, is Darren Peacock, while Robert Lee has been undertaking only light training.

For Blackburn, Billy McKinlay returns after an ankle injury. Tim Sherwood, however, is suffering from a similar ailment and will not play.

BLACKBURN ROVERS
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Tomorrow, 4.0

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, C Hendry, S Henchoz, J Wilcox — S Ripley, G Fitzroll, W McKinlay, D Duff — K Gallacher, C Sutton.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible: 3-5-2): S Given — A Pistone, N Dabizas, S Howey — W Barton, R Lee, D Batty, T Ketsbaia, S Pearce — A Andersson, A Shearer
Referee: D Elleray

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A draw.



Nick Szczepanik

Ron Atkinson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, and Jim Smith, his opposite number at Derby County, are great friends. When Atkinson was in charge at Coventry City, hapless hacks at Highfield Road and the Baseball Ground were often kept waiting for their weekly post-match pearls of managerial wisdom as the two compared notes over the phone.

Tomorrow, Atkinson's team could spare Smith's the ignominy of being the only one to lose an FA Carling Premiership game away to Crystal Palace.

It would not, of course, be intentional; but such is Wednesday's inconsistency that a defeat is as likely a result as any other. They have beaten Arsenal and Manchester United, but lost to Bolton Wanderers and Barnsley; a fortnight ago, they were dynamic at Everton, then, last Saturday, dismal at home to Aston Villa, when the debut of Francesco Sanetti provided the only highlight.

Palace, despite the 2-5 scoreline, made a game of their visit to the Reebok Stadium a week ago, and led 3-1 at home to West Ham on Tuesday, before settling for a draw. Could they leave the top flight with a bang, not a whimper?

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Tomorrow, 4.0

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable, 3-5-2): K Miller — J Fullarton, P Warhurst, H Hreidarsson — M Edworthy, S Rodger, A Lombardo, S Curcic, D Gordon — M Jansen, M Bent.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible; 4-4-2): K Pressman — E Barrett, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — B Carbone, P Atherton, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge — F Sanetti, P di Canio.
Referee: M Reed

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Palace bow out in winning style.

CHELSEA
v
BOLTON WANDERERS
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)



Rob Hughes

Integrity, as well as all the emotions of the last day of an FA Carling Premiership season, is on the line at Stamford Bridge tomorrow, where Bolton Wanderers need a better result than Everton achieve at home against Coventry City to stay in the monied elite.

For Bolton, the cause is obvious: fight until they drop. The method is clear: same as last Saturday, when they hit five goals against Crystal Palace to maintain their revival of 16 points from nine games. Bob Taylor and Dean Holdsworth, though, face fitness tests.

Gudni Bergsson, the Bolton captain, said: "The club and the players have a fantastic opportunity to stabilise ourselves as a Premiership side. We've got the stadium, we've got the ingredients, but even if there are non-regulars in the Chelsea side, they will want to impress to try to get into the European side."

Chelsea's commitment, whatever people say, could be compromised by Wednesday's Cup Winners' Cup final in Stockholm, their most important fixture since 1971 when they won the trophy in Athens. Who will play? Who will be in the right frame of mind? Who will turn out with a single thought — escaping injury?

Bolton's only selection problem concerns Colin Todd, the manager, leaving out his son Andy to retain Gerry Taggart and choosing between Taylor or Holdsworth. Chelsea announce injuries to Zola, Duberry, Myers, Wise, Sinclair and Le Saux.

As an omen, remember May 1994, when Chelsea beat Sheffield United 3-2 with a last-minute goal, and Everton came from behind to beat Wimbledon by the same score. Even Sam Hammam was livid at Wimbledon's surrender, but Everton stayed up and Sheffield United dropped.

CHELSEA (possible, 4-4-2): D Kharine — S Clarke, F Leboeuf, L Charvet, D Granville — J Morris, R di Matteo, E Newton, M Nicholls — M Hughes, T A Flo
BOLTON WANDERERS (probable, 3-5-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Fish, G Taggart — N Cox, P Frandsen, J Sheridan, A Thompson, J Phillips — N Blake, R Taylor
Referee: A Wilkie

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 3, from 4pm.
■ PREDICTION: Draw your own conclusions from a draw.

ON MONDAY

How did our experts *fare this season?*

See page 37



Richard Hobson

Roy Evans has never finished outside the top four while in charge of Liverpool. Jim Smith has supervised improvements in each of his three seasons at Derby County. At both clubs, though, certain supporters question whether the right manager is in place to take them the next step forward.

In the case of Liverpool, with nine goals in their past two matches, anything but a sustained challenge for the FA Carling Premiership title is considered disappointing. Evans knows he must improve on third place next season, which means recruiting a central defender of the Ron Yeats — or perhaps Sol Campbell — mould.

Smith is entitled to feel more upset at critical calls to a local radio phone-in. Such programmes bestow false authority upon those who would be better advised to keep quiet. Derby enter the final match with a chance — admittedly remote — of qualifying for Europe. What more can the poor man do?

The return to fitness of Igor Stimac and Francesco Baiano improves Derby's prospects tomorrow, as does the likely absence of Jason McAteer and Paul Ince from the Liverpool ranks. Bjorn Kvarme is recalled. The unlucky Jamie Redknapp hopes to feature in midfield.

DERBY COUNTY
v
LIVERPOOL
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

DERBY COUNTY (possible; 3-4-3): M Poom — J Laursen, I Stimac, C Dailly — R Delap, L Carsley, L Bohinen, C Powell — D Sturridge, F Baiano, P Wanchope.
LIVERPOOL (possible; 4-4-2): B Friedel — B T Kvarme, P Babb, S Harkness, S I Bjornebye — S McManaman, J Carragher, J Redknapp, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, K Riedle
Referee: S Lodge.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Liverpool win.



Bill Edgar

Wimbledon's role of guests at Leeds United's Uefa Cup party tomorrow is traditionally the kind of opportunity to upset the odds and ruin reputations on which they thrive. Yet their 1-0 success over Leeds in October has been their only victory in 11 games this season against the present top six in the FA Carling Premiership. Are Wimbledon finally accepting their rightful place in football's money-dictated pecking order?

Both these sides were heavily beaten last time out — Wimbledon suffered a 6-2 defeat by Tottenham Hotspur at Selhurst Park and Leeds lost 3-0 away to Manchester United — but subsequent results elsewhere have ensured that their main pre-season ambitions have been met.

Leeds's qualification for Europe confirms the giant strides being made under George Graham, their manager, while Wimbledon are just happy to have clinched a thirteenth successive campaign in the top flight.

Efan Ekoku may be given the chance to improve Wimbledon's poor goalscoring form of late. The sale of their captain on transfer deadline day has been followed by a run of three goals in nine games: perhaps the creative skills of Vinnie Jones, now plying his trade with Queens Park Rangers, have been underestimated.

LEEDS UNITED
v
WIMBLEDON
Tomorrow, 4.0

LEEDS UNITED (possible, 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Kelly, D Wetherall, L Radebe, I Harte — G Halle, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, A I Haaland — J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell
WIMBLEDON (possible; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — B Thatcher, C Perry, B McAllister, A Kimble — P Fear, M Hughes, A Roberts, M Kennedy — J Euell, E Ekoku
Referee: S Dunn

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win.



Matt Dickinson

Jürgen Klinsmann will take his leave from White Hart Lane tomorrow afternoon and, with the revelation that he has been awarded a £200,000 bonus for keeping Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Carling Premiership, head back to Germany with his bank balance greatly enhanced. Whether the same can be said for his reputation as one of the world's most feared strikers is debatable and his World Cup place is uncertain.

Four goals against Wimbledon last week showed signs that he may be rediscovering his sharpness, but Klinsmann may be relying on his close rapport with Berti Vogts, the Germany manager, as much as his fading talents when it comes to selection.

Klinsmann's will not be the only farewell tomorrow, with Nicola Berti, David Howells and Gary Mabbutt three reluctant, but seemingly certain, departures. More will probably follow, including John Scales.

There will be some intrigue in the performances of Darren Anderton and Matt Le Tissier. Anderton, in particular, has been given real encouragement by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and a good performance should seal his place in the international squad announced on Tuesday.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, A Nielsen — R Fox, D Anderton, N Berti, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, J Klinsmann.
SOUTHAMPTON (probable, 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — M Le Tissier, M Oakley, C Palmer, K Gibbens — D Hirst, E Ostenstad
Referee: P Jones.

■ TELEVISION: *Tomorrow: Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Comfortable home win.



Brian Glanville

The FA Carling Premiership's best referee, Uriah Rennie, will be in charge of this game, which could decide whether one side or the other qualifies for the next Uefa Cup. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, remains optimistic, though the odds seem against him.

Giving away no fewer than eight goals in the past two games, three to lowly Crystal Palace, suggests a crisis in defence partly caused by the injury to Rio Ferdinand's back. He is doubtful, though he may recover, as might Pontus Kaamark. Leicester City's Swedish defender, missing against Barnsley when he hurt his back in the warm-up.

If he fails to make it, the versatile Ian Marshall will probably continue in defence, with Tony Cottee up front, intriguingly against the club where he made his name. Will he score, as former players so often do? After all, even Bernard Lama, the excellent goalkeeper, who has played his way back into the France World Cup squad, has not been able to prevent the goals flying in.

John Hartson remains suspended, but there was some consolation when Manny Omoyinmi, 20, came on as substitute to score twice against Palace. John Moncur and Steve Potts are both in doubt.

WEST HAM UNITED
v
LEICESTER CITY
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

WEST HAM UNITED (probable; 3-4-1-2): B Lama — S Lomas, I Pearce, D Unsworth — A Impey, T Sinclair, F Lampard, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — P Kitson, M Omoyinmi.
LEICESTER CITY (probable; 3-5-2): K Keller — I Marshall, M Elliott, S Walsh — R Savage, T Zoricanis, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — A Cottee, E Heskey
Referee: U Rennie

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.

هكذا من الأرض

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Cup Winners' Cup lacks nothing in prestige for Chelsea



FRANK LEBOEUF

Believe it or not, some people have been saying that it would be better for Chelsea *not to win the Cup Winners' Cup* final in Stockholm on Wednesday because then we would play in the "more prestigious" Uefa Cup next season, instead of defending our trophy. *Nonsense.*

Wednesday will be the biggest game of my career and if anyone thinks I, or any of my team-mates, will not be as committed to victory as we have ever been in our lives, they must be daft. There is already that buzz around the club and I can barely wait.

Obviously the European Cup Champions' League is the pinnacle of European football, but I really do not see how there is much of a case to say that the Uefa Cup is more significant than the piece of silverware I hope to be holding high next week. The past two winners have been Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain and I'm sure no one would try to dismiss them as small clubs. I am just as certain that in England, nobody was decrying the achievement of Manchester United, when they won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1991, *or Arsenal, who triumphed in 1994* and then lost in the final the following season.

Yes, there is a round less to play and, yes, there are teams in the competition who may have finished tenth or even lower in their domestic championship, but looking back at our run to the final, I would like someone to tell me which was an easy game.

I have stirring memories of each round. First, there was Slovan Bratislava, whom we beat 2-0 in both legs with two great performances. What I shall never forget, though, is walking down the road for some fresh air on the morning before the away game. I was lost in my own thoughts until I suddenly heard a gang of Chelsea fans in a bar chanting my name. Little moments like that can be so uplifting for players.

From there, it was on to Tromsö *and the game in the snow, a* unique experience in my playing career and one that I would not want to repeat. I think the way we battled through the blizzard, with Gianluca Vialli scoring those two vital goals, proved that we had the spirit and fighting qualities that some people had doubted.

The two victories against Real Betis were superb displays and took us through to the semi-final where we met Vicenza. We gave them far too much respect in the first game, when we lost 1-0, but, in some ways, it made us only more determined. They had only just *beaten us, but they celebrated at the end as* if it was all over. Our 3-1 victory in the second leg proved otherwise.

And so now on to the final and VfB Stuttgart, when victory will prove, after the FA Cup triumph last year and the Coca-Cola Cup success earlier this season, that Chelsea are going from strength to strength. The team has improved from year to year and Wednesday night should act as a springboard for next season, when the Champions' League, if not the championship itself, will be our target.

The only disappointing note I *should mention involves the celebrations, should, of course, we* win. I am not thinking otherwise. We shall be flying back straight after the game, but, while I must pack my bags and prepare to join the France squad, most of the rest of the boys are heading off first thing on Thursday morning for an end-of-season tour to Martinique. I *would like to see the state of them!*

The open-top bus ride down the Fulham Road after the FA Cup Final was one of the highlights of my career and it is a shame nothing similar can be planned. We will have to make up for it.

■ Relegation issue

Before the final, we must play Bolton Wanderers at Stamford Bridge tomorrow, when victory for them will save them from relegation. Inevitably, there has been comment about what sort of team Chelsea will field and pressure on the club to say it will be the strongest possible starting XI.

I can understand the concerns, particularly from Everton, but could anyone honestly blame Luca if he fielded the reserves? Of course, I am not saying that Luca will field a weak team or that the one that plays will not be trying, but I just find it funny that the spotlight is turned on us now when I am sure there have been games in the past few weeks when other clubs have not played their strongest side or given everything.

Without wanting to sound too harsh on Bolton or Everton, if they wanted to avoid relegation, they should have got the points before now. If they go down, they should not be looking at events tomorrow and blaming us, but looking at themselves over the whole season.

■ Shearer's mistake

Everyone else seems to have had their say about the Alan Shearer kicking incident, so here is my view. It is that the England captain, great player that he is and nice guy that he seems, has to be called to account for his actions and so the Football Association was right to charge him.

I do not think Shearer is a dirty player, but here was one instant where he lost his normal self-control. You have to remember that it was a kick in the head and any contact around the skull must be eradicated. Sure, Neil Lennon was not injured, but it could have been so much worse. We do not want to get to the point where footballers are wearing helmets!

As for the wider issue of using video replays to punish players for incidents that the referee might not have seen, I am all for it. Everyone who loves football should want to rid the game of bad tackles and encourage skill and this is one good way of doing it.

■ Au revoir

This is my last column of the league season, but hopefully not my last of the campaign — the World Cup is just a month away and, fingers crossed, I will be writing from the France squad's base about our chances.

I should take this opportunity, though, to wish all the Chelsea fans who have supported us so *well this year best wishes for the* summer. I have been touched by the personal messages and I particularly want to thank the Chelsea fan who has changed his car registration plate to L8O EUF. I am touched!

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F	HOME A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F	AWAY A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
1. ARSENAL (1)	37	78	+36	15	2	2	43	10	8	7	3	25	22	9-0-1	L1
2. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	37	74	+45	13	4	2	42	9	9	4	5	29	17	5-3-2	W2
3. LIVERPOOL (3)	37	65	+27	13	2	4	42	16	5	9	4	26	25	5-3-2	W2
4. CHELSEA (4)	37	60	+26	12	2	4	35	14	7	1	11	34	29	5-0-5	L2
5. LEEDS UTD (5)	37	58	+11	9	4	5	30	20	8	3	8	26	25	6-1-3	L1
6. BLACKBURN ROVERS (7)	37	55	+4	10	4	4	39	26	5	6	8	17	26	2-1-7	L1
7. ASTON VILLA (8)	37	54	0	8	3	7	25	24	8	3	8	23	24	8-0-2	W1
8. LEICESTER CITY (10)	37	53	+11	6	10	3	21	15	7	4	7	27	22	3-4-3	W1
9. WEST HAM UTD (6)	37	53	-2	12	4	2	36	15	3	4	12	16	39	3-4-3	D1
10. DERBY COUNTY (9)	37	52	+2	11	3	4	32	18	4	4	11	19	31	3-1-6	W1
11. COVENTRY CITY (11)	37	51	+2	8	9	2	26	17	4	6	8	19	26	3-6-1	W1
12. SOUTHAMPTON (12)	37	47	-5	10	1	8	28	23	4	4	10	21	31	4-1-5	L1
13. NEWCASTLE UTD (15)	37	44	-8	8	5	6	22	20	3	6	9	13	23	2-4-4	W1
14. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (14)	37	44	-14	9	5	5	30	26	3	3	12	22	40	3-1-6	L1
15. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (17)	37	43	-12	7	7	4	22	21	4	3	12	21	34	4-4-2	W2
16. WIMBLEDON (13)	37	43	-12	5	6	8	18	25	5	7	6	15	20	2-4-4	L1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (19)	37	40	-18	7	8	4	25	22	2	5	11	16	37	5-1-4	W2
18. EVERTON (16)	37	39	-15	7	4	7	24	26	2	8	9	16	29	2-4-4	L2
19. BARNSLEY (18)	37	35	-43	7	4	7	25	33	3	1	15	12	47	3-1-6	L2
20. CRYSTAL PALACE (20)	37	30	-35	1	5	12	14	39	6	4	9	22	32	2-1-7	D1

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge	Dead ball	Open play	1st half	2nd half
1. Manchester Utd	71	1.92	11	60	29	42
2. Chelsea	69	1.86	17	52	28	41
3. Arsenal	68	1.84	16	52	38	30
=. Liverpool	68	1.84	15	53	27	41
5. Leeds	56	1.51	20	36	29	27
=. Blackburn	56	1.51	15	41	32	24
7. Sheffield Wed	52	1.40	13	39	22	30
=. West Ham	52	1.40	10	42	21	31
9. Derby	51	1.38	14	37	27	24
10. Southampton	49	1.32	14	35	19	30
11. Aston Villa	48	1.30	12	36	18	30
=. Leicester	48	1.30	22	26	20	28
13. Coventry	45	1.22	18	27	22	23
14. Tottenham	43	1.16	11	32	18	25
15. Bolton	41	1.11	12	29	18	23
16. Everton	40	1.08	13	27	19	21
17. Barnsley	37	1.00	12	25	22	15
18. Crystal Palace	36	0.97	6	30	17	19
19. Newcastle	35	0.95	7	28	17	18
20. Wimbledon	33	0.89	7	26	14	19

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Average	Dead ball	Open play	Own goal	Clean sheet
1. Manchester Utd	26	0.70	10	16	1	19
2. Arsenal	32	0.86	5	27	0	19
3. Leicester	37	1.00	10	27	1	15
4. Liverpool	41	1.11	15	26	1	13
5. Chelsea	43	1.16	12	31	1	13
=. Coventry	43	1.16	11	32	0	13
=. Newcastle	43	1.16	14	29	2	10
8. Leeds	45	1.22	13	42	0	11
=. Wimbledon	45	1.22	7	38	1	13
10. Aston Villa	48	1.30	12	36	0	8
11. Derby	49	1.32	15	34	1	12
12. Blackburn	52	1.40	7	45	2	13
13. Southampton	54	1.46	15	39	0	8
=. West Ham	54	1.46	13	41	2	8
15. Everton	55	1.49	20	35	1	10
=. Tottenham	55	1.49	12	43	2	10
17. Bolton	59	1.59	13	46	0	10
18. Sheffield Wed	66	1.78	16	50	3	8
19. Crystal Palace	71	1.92	17	54	2	5
20. Barnsley	80	2.16	20	60	1	6

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Everton	80	5
2. Leeds Utd	79	5
3. Derby	80	2
4. Coventry	67	5
5. C Palace	69	3
6. Bolton	66	5
7. Arsenal*	68	3
8. Sheffield Wed	65	4
9. Chelsea	66	3
10. Barnsley	62	5
=. West Ham	62	5
12. Newcastle	62	2
13. Manchester Utd*	61	1
14. Southampton	57	4
15. Blackburn	55	5
16. Tottenham	58	2
17. Liverpool	50	2
18. Wimbledon	49	2
19. Leicester	42	2
20. Aston Villa	42	1

** Caution downgraded/erased*

REFEREES

Premiership games only	Cards issued P	Yellow	Red
1. G Willard	21	94	8
2. M Reed	18	79	2
3. G Barber	22	89	7
4. U Rennie	19	76	4
5. G Poll	21	77	9
6. J Winter	20	77	2
7. D Elleray	18	61	4
8. S Dunn	15	51	2
9. P Durkin	18	60	3
10. M Riley	20	65	4
11. N Barry	20	67	2
12. A Wilkie	22	68	2
13. M Bodenham	21	63	1
14. G Ashby	19	55	2
15. P Alcock	19	54	1
16. P Jones	20	55	2
17. D Gallagher	19	50	3
18. S Lodge	20	51	3
19. K Burge	19	47	4

ARSENAL

APPEARANCES (including as sub)
30+: Winterburn (34/1); Parlour (33); Overmars (31); Petit (31); Vieira (30/2); Seaman (30); Platt (11/19)
20+: Bergkamp (28); Dixon (26/2); Adams (25); Bould (21/3); Wright (21/2); Anelka (15/10); Grimandi (15/6)
10+: Keown (17); Hughes (7/8); Wreh (7/8); Garde (6/4); Boa Morte (4/11)
Less than 10: Manninger (7); Upson (5); Marshall (1/2); McGowan (1); Mendez (1/2); Rankin (0/1); Vernazza (1)
Total players used: 26

GOALS - 68
16 Bergkamp; 12 Overmars; 10 Wright; 6 Anelka; 5 Parlour; 3 Adams, Platt, Wreh; 2 Petit, Vieira, Hughes; 1 Winterburn, Grimandi
Own goals: 2

YELLOW CARDS - 68
9 Bould; 7 Bergkamp; 6 Adams, Viera *(caution deleted)*; 5 Grimandi, Parlour, Wright; 4 Dixon, Petit, Platt; 3 Winterburn, Garde; 2 Anelka, Boa Morte, Keown; 1 Seaman
RED CARDS - 3
Keown, Petit, Vieira

SCORERS

Premiership goals only

1. Owen (Liverpool)	18
2. Dublin (Coventry)	17
=. Sutton (Blackburn)	17
4. Bergkamp (Arsenal)	16
=. Gallacher (Blackburn)	16
=. Hasselbaink (Leeds)	16
7. Hartson (West Ham)	15
8. Cole (Manchester Utd)	14
=. Huckerby (Coventry)	14
10. *Five players on 12 goals*	

CRYSTAL PALACE

APPEARANCES (including as sub)
30+: Miller (37); Gordon (35/1); Edworthy (32/1)
20+: Rodger (26/2); Hreidarsson (25/4); Linighan (25); Roberts (25); Dyer (21/3); Warhurst (21); Lombardo (20/3); Fullarton (19/6); Shipperley (16/8)
10+: Smith (16/2); Brolin (13); Ismael (13); Bent (9/6); Emblen (8/5); Padovano (8/2)
Less than 10: Muscat (9); Tuttle (8/1); Jansen (5/3); Curcic (5/2); Freedman (2/6); Zohar (2/4); Ginty (2/3); Ndah (2/1); Veart (1/5); Billio (1/2); Burton (1/1); McKenzie (0/3); Bonetti (0/2); Boxall (0/1); Davies (0/1); Quinn (0/1)
Total players used: 34

GOALS - 36
7 Shipperley; 5 Lombardo, Bent; 4 Dyer; 3 Warhurst, Jansen; 2 Gordon, Hreidarsson, Rodger; 1 Padovano, Curcic, Fullarton

YELLOW CARDS - 69
10 Fullarton; 7 Hreidarsson; 6 Edworthy; 5 Tuttle; 4 Dyer, Linighan, Ismael, Roberts; 3 Emblen, Gordon, Muscat, Warhurst; 2 Bent, Brolin, Lombardo, Rodger; 1 Billio, Padovano, Smith, Veart, Shipperley
RED CARDS - 3
Edworthy, Ismael, Smith

OFFENDERS

Premiership cautions	Y	R
1. Batty (Newcastle)	10	2
2. Eranio (Derby)	9	2
=. Williams (Coventry)	9	2
4. Bilic (Everton)	7	3
5. Radebe (Leeds)	9	1
6. Wise (Chelsea)	10	0
7. Bergsson (Bolton)	8	1
=. Carbone (Sheff Wed)	8	1
9. Fullarton (C Palace)	9	0
=. Moncur (West Ham)	9	0

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Nationwide League
Second division play-offs
Semi-final, first leg
Fulham v Grimsby

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Celtic v St Johnstone
Dundee Utd v Rangers
Hearts v Dunfermline
Kilmarnock v Hibernian
Motherwell v Aberdeen

First division
Falkirk v Airdrie
Greenock Morton v Stirling
Partick v Ayr
Raith v Hamilton
St Mirren v Dundee

Second division
Brechin v Clydebank
Clyde v Stranraer
East Fife v Forfar
Livingston v Inverness CT
Queen of South v Stenhousemuir

Third division
Albion v Montrose
Alloa v Berwick
Arbroath v Queen's Park
Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath
Ross County v East Stirling

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Final: Tiverton Tn v Tow Law (at Wembley Stadium).
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Colchester v Tottenham (11 0), Swindon v Brighton (11 0).
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William v Cove, Wick Academy v Fraserburgh
SCHOOLS MATCH: Invitation International (under-15) England v Hungary (at Old Trafford, 3.0)

RUGBY UNION

Tetley's Bitter Cup
Final
Saracens v Wasps
(at Twickenham, 3 0)

Welsh League
Premier division
Bridgend v Pontypridd (2.30)
Llanelli v Newport (2 30)
Swansea v Cardiff (5.0)

First division
Aberavon v Pontypool (2.30)
Abertillery v Newbridge (2.30)
Bonymaen v Rumney (2.30)
Cardiff Inst v Llandovery (2.30)
Cross Keys v South Wales Police (2.30)
Maesteg v Caerphilly (2.30)
Merthyr v Blackwood (2.30)
Treorchy v Dunvant (2.30)

Tennents Velvet Cup
Final
Glasgow Hawks v Kelso
(at Murrayfield, 3 0)

TENNENTS VELVET BOWL: Final: Camoustie HSFP v Perthshire (at Murrayfield, 11 0)
TENNENTS VELVET SHIELD: Final: Berwick v Selkirk (at Murrayfield, 12 45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Sheffield v Wigan (3.15)

Second division
Workington v Bramley (6.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE (2.30): Premier division: Leigh Miners v Mayfield, Lock Lane v Oldham St Anne's, Walney Central v Askam, West Hull v Egremont; Wigan St Patrick's v Beverley. First division: Millom v Shaw Cross, Moldgreen v Dutton; Rochdl v Leigh East Thornhill v *Blackbrook. Second division: Featherstone* Amateur v Hull Dockers, London Students v Cwenden.

CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup
11 0, 50 overs
THE PARKS: British Universities v Kent
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Hampshire
EGLINTON: Ireland v Sussex
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Northamptonshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Durham

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: European cruiserweight championship: J Nelson (Sheffield) v A Ilin (Russ). British featherweight championship: J J Irwin (Doncaster) v E Pickering (Newark) (at Hillsborough Leisure Centre, Sheffield)
EQUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse Trials
HOCKEY: Women's international match: Scotland v Argentina (at Cramond, Edinburgh, 4 30) Women's quadrangular international tournament: Wales v Italy (12 0), Ireland v France (2.0) (both at University College, Dublin).
MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship (at Snetterton)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Coventry v Ipng's Lynn (7 30), Eastbourne v Swindon (7 30) Premier League: Berwick v Reading (7 0) Premier League Cup: Stoke v Hull (7 0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership
Aston Villa v Arsenal (4.0)
Barnsley v Manchester Utd (4.0)
Blackburn v Newcastle (4.0)
Chelsea v Bolton (4.0)
* Crystal Palace v Sheffield Wednesday (4.0)
Derby v Liverpool (4.0)
Everton v Coventry (4.0)
Leeds v Wimbledon (4 0)
Tottenham v Southampton (4.0)
West Ham v Leicester (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division play-offs
Semi-finals, first leg
Ipswich v Charlton (1.0)
* Sheffield Utd v Sunderland (1.0)

Second division play-offs
Semi-final, first leg
* Bristol Rovers v Northampton (3.0)

Third division play-offs
Semi-finals, first leg
* Barnet v Colchester (1.30)
Scarborough v Torquay (3.0)

WELSH CUP: Final: Bangor City v Connah's Quay (at Racecourse Ground, Wrexham, 3.15).
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal v Doncaster (2 0); Croydon v Liverpool (2 0)

CRICKET

Axa League
2.0, 40 overs
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Somerset
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Essex
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Derbyshire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Durham
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Leicestershire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Surrey

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Leicester v Bristol (3.0)
Sale v Northampton (3.0)

Welsh League
Premier division
Neath v Ebbw Vale (2 30)

CLUB MATCH: Manchester v Orrell (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Bradford v St Helens (7 05)
Castleford v Hull (3.30)
Salford v Huddersfield (3.0)
Warrington v Halifax (3 0)

First division
Dewsbury v Featherstone (3.0)
Keighley v Rochdale (3.0)
Leigh v Hunslet (3 0)
Whitehaven v Swinton (3 30)
Widnes v Hull KR (3 0)

Second division
Barrow v Doncaster (3.0)
Lancashire Lynx v York (3.0)
Oldham v Batley (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: National 10 miles time-trial championship (at Bottisham, Cambridge, 7am). Lincoln Grand Prix (160km, at Lincoln, 11 30)
EQUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse Trials.
HOCKEY: Women's EHA Cup: Final: Slough v Clifton (2.30). Plate: Final: Deeside Ramblers v Dulwich (10 0) (both at Milton Keynes); Women's international match: Scotland v Argentina (at Cramond, Edinburgh, 12 30) Women's quadrangular international tournament: Italy v France (12 0), Ireland v Wales (2 0) (at University College, Dublin)
MOTORCYCLING: Brush superbike championship (at Snetterton)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Swindon v Oxford (7 0) Premier League: Glasgow v Reading (6 30); Newport v Newcastle (2 30).



COVERAGE

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: *Football Focus*, from 12.20pm Sky Sports 1: Spanish league (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: BBC1: *Match of the Day* (extended highlights of Chelsea v Bolton, Everton v Coventry, West Ham v Leicester and Aston Villa v Arsenal), from 10.35pm. Channel 4: *Live* coverage of Juventus v Bologna in *Football Italia*, from 2.45pm. Sky Sports 1: FA Carling Premiership, Everton v Coventry (live), from 3pm. Sky Sports 2: Nationwide League first division play-off, Ipswich v Charlton (live), from 12pm. Sky Sports 3: FA Carling Premiership, Chelsea v Bolton (live), from 4pm.
RADIO: Today: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage of a Bell's Scottish League premier division match in *Sport on Five*, from 1pm. Tomorrow: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage of an FA Carling Premiership match in *Sunday Sport*, from 1pm.

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Smith saga has hallmarks of another Fina mess

Craig Lord implores swimming's governing body to act quickly and decisively in the latest case to damage the sport's image

In its case against Michelle Smith, Fina, the guardian of swimming, appears to be playing the part, not for the first time, of reluctant angler — despite the thrashing of a big fish on the end of its hook. Hunter and hunted dice with a common dilemma; their already tarnished reputations are at stake and there can be only one winner.

In 1994 Fina was forced to cast its line deeper into a murky pond by a swimming family whose talent was being trounced by Chinese cheats and, before them, the pharmaceutically fuelled fleecers from East Berlin. Rogues have risen in the West, too.

Though still deaf to its own medical experts on the positive value of blood testing, and having been harried all the way to a multi-million pound anti-drugs programme by a membership whose tolerance of an indecent silence over East Germany and the indefensible Chinese is exhausted, Fina now has a body of rules fit to enhance its own performance.

Yet it risks a repeat of past follies. Since being forced by a report in *The Times* last week to issue a statement on Smith, Fina appears confused: to be prosecutor or protector, that is the question.

A Fina official has since described its statement — that Smith's sample showed "unequivocal signs of adulteration" that were "compatible with physical manipulation" — as being designed to "protect Smith".

There have been other contradictions. Gunnar Werner, the Swedish judge who is Fina's honorary secretary, asserts that the Irish swimmer could receive anything from "nil to a life ban" for any manipulation. He is correct. So, why then has the Fina executive shied away from the common practice — applied in all recent drugs cases — of imposing a temporary suspension on Smith during the investigation into her?

"This is not strictly a banned substance," Werner says. It doesn't need to be; the rule states that provisional suspension may be imposed after an "adverse report on the A sample". Case closed. In Fina's favour, the Smith camp, too, has made mistakes. Peter Lennon, Smith's solicitor, said that Fina leaked the information about Smith's plight to curry favour with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He is wrong. He might consider that this is an organisation that, in 1986 and 1988, gave its Oscar, the Fina Prize, to East Germany. Nor was it Fina that revealed what the IOC laboratory in Barcelona had found. It was Smith who divulged references to a "strong whiskey odour" and the "administration of a precursor of testosterone".

Lennon also suggested that the whiskey factor was likely to be explained by the presence of an alcohol-based cleaning agent in the testing jar in which the A sample was analysed. No problem then: the B sample will surely prove that alcohol was not present when Smith supplied her specimen. So why has the Smith camp not called for the B sample to be tested? They should be screaming for it. They have until May 18.

Lennon makes much of the ten weeks that it took Fina to inform Smith of her problem. That timespan is not unusual in such cases. He further asserts that Smith, who falsely describes herself as "the most tested swimmer in recent history", is being targeted by Fina. Codswallop. Proven cheats such as Smith's husband, Erik de Bruin, have made testing programmes essential. Smith, tested six times out of competition last year, is selected rather fewer times than some other notables, such as Franziska van Almsick.

Nor should Fina pay much heed to talk of a £1 million plus campaign in Ireland to clear Smith's name. It should be far more concerned with the expert opinions of its own members, many of whom put Smith's astounding progress down to one of two factors; either De Bruin, with absolutely no expertise in the pool pre-1993, has found a miracle coaching formula, or Smith is a product of a similar formula to that on which De Bruin's own rise and fall was founded.

Fina should take courage from events of the past week: the first decision to go against a swimmer, Richard Upton, of Australia, at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and the painful evidence of former East German swimmers in a Berlin court against coaches who allegedly fed them anabolic steroids. For its own salvation, Fina needs to be as robust in defending clean swimmers as it has been in soothing the consciences of cheats.

If there is proof that Smith is innocent, then she must be set free to swim another day. But if there is no evidence that anyone other than she could have put the whiskey in the jar, then Fina must ensure that she is not the one that got away.

TENNIS: ELDER WILLIAMS SISTER WINS IN STRAIGHT SETS TO STAY ON COURSE FOR HINGIS REMATCH

Serena lands some way from Venus

By Julian Muscat
Tennis Correspondent

IT WAS a mirror image of their first encounter as professionals in Melbourne four months ago. Serena Williams, impressive until colliding with her elder sister in the quarter-finals of the Italian Open yesterday, was promptly brushed aside in straight sets.

This much-anticipated contest again failed to inspire. Venus Williams, the elder by 15 months, was better able to cope with the ordeal and prevailed 6-4, 6-2 in 74 minutes. Serena, 16, never recreated the magic with which she dismantled Conchita Martinez — four times a previous Italian Open winner — on Thursday.

While their Australian Open joust ended with them embracing on court, Serena's disappointment was more palpable this time. There were no smiles from the dreadlocked Afro-Americans as Serena, unseeded, barely accepted her sister's handshake.

Both players craved victory but the younger Williams spoiled her chance with a plethora of unforced errors. "It did feel different playing against my sister in Melbourne, but this time it was much more like playing against any opponent," Serena said.

Venus, seeded No 9, was marginally more composed. "I think Serena knows what she needs to do to beat me, but I'd have to make a lot of mistakes," she said. "We both had a bad day but I was more consistent at the important times. I think we would both prefer to avoid each other until the final. It would be more fun then."

Despite her frustrations, Serena, world-ranked No 31, can reflect on a successful debut on clay. She defeated two seeds en route to the quarter-finals, the fourth time that she has reached that stage from five tournaments this year. Her performance bodes well for the French Open later this month. She has advanced more than 400 places in the rankings since her Tour debut seven months ago.

VINCENZO PINTO



Venus Williams puts everything into a forehand return on her way to victory over her sister, Serena, yesterday

Because of restrictions triggered by their tender years, both girls have been absent from tournament play since the Lipton championships six weeks ago. In that event, Serena could not convert match points against Martina Hingis — who then succumbed to Venus in the semi-finals. Venus went on to beat Anna Kournikova for the second title of her short career.

Hingis and Kournikova, among five teenagers in the quarter-finals in Rome, locked horns yesterday for the fourth time inside a year. For the fourth time, Hingis came out on top by dismissing her Russian adversary 6-2, 6-4.

Results 34

Hingis, the world No 1, is to play fewer tournaments this year but there is nothing wrong with her form. A fierce rivalry is developing between her and Venus Williams; doubtless Hingis has her mind on avenging that defeat by Williams in Florida six weeks ago.

To entertain the prospect, Hingis must beat the winner of the match between Mirjana Lucic and Sandrine Testud, who played their quarter-final late last night. Meanwhile, Williams must overcome Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario in the other semi-final.

Kucera makes poor Muster look like a fish out of water

From Alix Ramsay in Hamburg

AFTER a week of rain and delays, no one was taking any chances yesterday in the quarter-finals of the Licher German Open. The sunshine may have been warm, the skies may have been blue, but no one was hanging about as the first two semi-finalists emerged with straight-sets wins and little fuss.

Karol Kucera, of Slovakia, was the first man through, demolishing Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-2. As a contest it promised more than it delivered after Muster had nipped into an early 3-1 lead, Kucera dropping his service on a double fault. Kucera held for 3-2 to begin a winning run of nine consecutive games.

For the past year Kucera has been coached by Miroslav Mecir, who, in his playing days in the 1980s, was known as the Big Cat. A quiet and contemplative soul, he used to divide his time between demonstrating his devastating talent on court and taking time off to go fishing.

Kucera, it would appear, is following in his footsteps. Once he had hooked Muster he was never going to let him go, and, in that spell at the end of the first set and the beginning of the second, he reeled him in.

Muster was doing all the running but invariably in the wrong direction. "He's a player that once he takes over he moves you around, wrong-footing you," Muster said.

A loss of concentration in the first set did not help and it allowed Kucera, who had been struggling to control the power of Muster's shots, to take the initiative. "I didn't focus well enough and I couldn't find a way back into the match," Muster said. "You want to try to change things but then you miss a little bit and you start to hold back and he gets more confident. That's how matches change."

As for Kucera, he had to think for himself against Muster. Mecir was never the most forthcoming of men as a player and appears to be no different as a coach. "He didn't say much to me before the match," Kucera said. "Sometimes he talks for 30 minutes, sometimes he doesn't say a word." No change there, then.

Kucera now plays Albert Costa, who disposed of Fabrice Santoro 6-3, 6-4. Santoro has had his moment of glory already this year, beating Pete Sampras in the third round at Monte Carlo two weeks ago, and since he started working with his father, Marcel, last year, has gone rattling up the rankings from 118 to 29. But none of this made much difference to Costa, who was in charge from the start.

Costa does not stand out in the massed ranks of Spanish clay-court specialists, but he did have a spell in the top ten last year and, with a slow court and a chance to reach his first semi-final of the year, he found Santoro an easy target.

Only in the latter stages of the second set did Santoro make a real fight of it, and all the stylish, crowd-pleasing tennis came from the Frenchman. But it was too late as Costa — suitably attired in grey — wore him down from the baseline.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Sheffield hope for big crowd at party

By Peter Wilson

SHEFFIELD Eagles are confident that their week of parties and receptions to celebrate their Silk Cut Challenge Cup success will reach even greater heights this afternoon with the biggest crowd in their 14-year history turning up at the Don Valley Stadium.

It is a happy coincidence that the visitors are Wigan Warriors, their Wembley victims, who are natural crowd-pullers even without the added spice of a revenge match. The prospects of topping the 10,603 record set by the visit to Sheffield of Bradford Bulls in August are good.

John Monie, the Wigan coach, looking for crumbs of comfort after the cup final defeat, said: "The best thing that can be said is that we didn't surrender any competition [league] points." Nevertheless, he makes changes, promoting Neil Cowie, relegating Stephen Holgate to the substitutes' bench and leaving out Terry O'Connor.

Even at this early stage of the JJB Super League season, the jostling for top positions is important, especially for Wigan. Even in their so-called lean years, when they failed to win either the league or the Challenge Cup, they still managed to lift the Premiership Trophy twice. Now, with the arrival of the Australian-style play-offs, there is nothing for finishing top of the league. Everything rests on winning the grand final.

The clubs who have lifted the Super League crown in its first two seasons meet at Odsal tomorrow. Bradford, the champions, have James Lowes, the Great Britain hooker, in their line-up after injury kept him out of the start of the season, but the chances of a head-to-head with Keiron Cunningham, his biggest rival for the international role, disappeared when the St Helens man failed a fitness test. St Helens, however, do have Paul Sculthorpe back after a thigh injury.

BOXING

Pickering tests his age against experience

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

UNDETERRED by the failure of Ryan Rhodes against Otis Grant, of Canada, the International Boxing Federation middleweight champion, last December, Brendan Ingle will attempt once more to prove that youth can prevail over experience when he pits Esham Pickering against Jonjo Irwin for the vacant British featherweight title at Hillsborough Leisure Centre in Sheffield tonight.

Pickering is 21 and has had just 11 bouts in a 20-month career; Irwin, 28, has had 21 contests and has been boxing for eight years — yet when Ingle was asked if he wanted Pickering to meet Irwin for the vacant title, the Sheffield trainer had no hesitation in accepting the challenge. "Esham will beat him, no problem" he said.

The Pickering camp maintains that, despite a lack of experience in the ring, his work as a sparring partner for boxers such as Spencer Oliver, Michael Brodie and Johnny Bredahl has given him enough experience to deal with Irwin. Ingle's son, John, said that Pickering's stoppage of Mike Devney was a better result than Irwin's points win over the Scot.

Irwin is a good professional. Although his boxing is straightforward, he is technically sound and extremely fit. He has a good jab and defence and a quiet determination to succeed. A former British and Commonwealth champion, Irwin, has boxed at super-featherweight and is not only a bigger man than Pickering, he also has height and reach advantages.

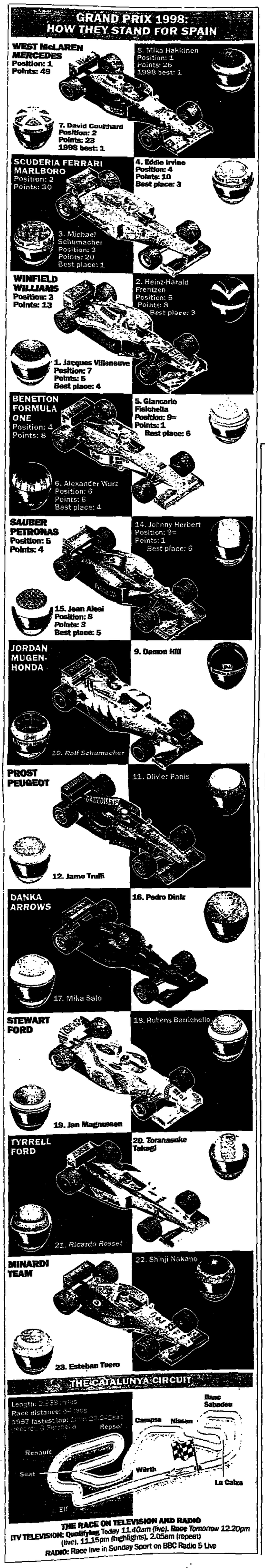
He should have too much strength and experience for his opponent, but, after his defeat by Paul Ingle last October, it will be interesting to see how he reacts if he finds himself unable to launch an effective counter-attack against a younger man who relies on hit-and-run tactics.

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CHANGING TIMES

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MOTOR RACING: ONLY SCHUMACHER ABLE TO INTRUDE ON McLAREN TEAM-MATES' PRIVATE DUEL

Hakkinen keeps Coulthard at bay

FROM KEVIN EASON IN BARCELONA

AS HE trudged into the garage, one almost wanted to put an arm around Jan Magnussen and reassure him that everything was all right. The Dane arrived here for the Spanish Grand Prix, his infant career in Formula One trickling away to dust. The man once described by Jackie Stewart, his boss, as the next Ayrton Senna has failed to finish in three out of four races this season and cannot afford another error or hapless breakdown.

So he set out in practice yesterday afternoon, but lasted 20 minutes before his Stewart Ford disappeared into the gravel. It was not the start he wanted to the most important weekend in his racing life.

Magnussen only just avoided dismissal before this race after committing the ultimate crime of crashing into Rubens Barrichello, his team-mate, at the San Marino Grand Prix. That was the latest in a series of personal disasters to befall the 23-year-old and he knows that time is running out.

"It has been tough," Magnussen said. "Moving into Formula One has been difficult but I just have to work hard and hope that my luck gets better. I really want to finish here in Spain — and finish well."

Paul Stewart, the Stewart Ford managing director, sympathises with his problems but admitted he was now facing a "race-by-race" trial. "We want to make it work for Jan and I believe he has it in him," he said. "It is very difficult to perform under these conditions, but my father and I have had a word with him and he knows we are worried by his performances. He has to improve."

Magnussen is not the only one feeling the heat at this circuit, tucked away in countryside a few miles from the beaches of the Costa Brava. Mika Hakkinen's unblinking stare said it all as he sat in the cockpit of his McLaren Mercedes before setting out on his afternoon practice stint. The gauntlet has been thrown down by David Coulthard, his team-mate, who believes that he can win the world championship if he can break Hakkinen's nerve.

Damon Hill certainly thinks that the Scot has matured hugely since they were team-mates at Williams three years ago and will win the championship. "David is ready," Hill said yesterday. "He just has to keep his head and do what he is doing now and he will win the championship. He is the best man in the best car."

If Hakkinen is supposed to be cracking under the strain, there was no sign as the Finn set the fastest time in both pactice sessions, a clear 0.8sec ahead of Coulthard. The McLarens are still a street ahead of the competition, but this duel between the team's drivers looks the most intriguing head-to-head since Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost were scrapping for the title in McLarens a decade ago.

It seems that only Michael Schumacher can intrude on this private war, the Williams team having almost admitted defeat for this season. Ferrari has a package of improvements, including a new exhaust system which makes the car "less nervous", according to Eddie Irvine.

With more improvements to come, the team's No 2 driver thinks that Schumacher will pick up vital points if the contest between the McLaren men turns into a full-blown war. "Michael can still win the championship," he said. "They have won three races but Michael has won one and we are not that far behind."

BARCELONA DETAILS

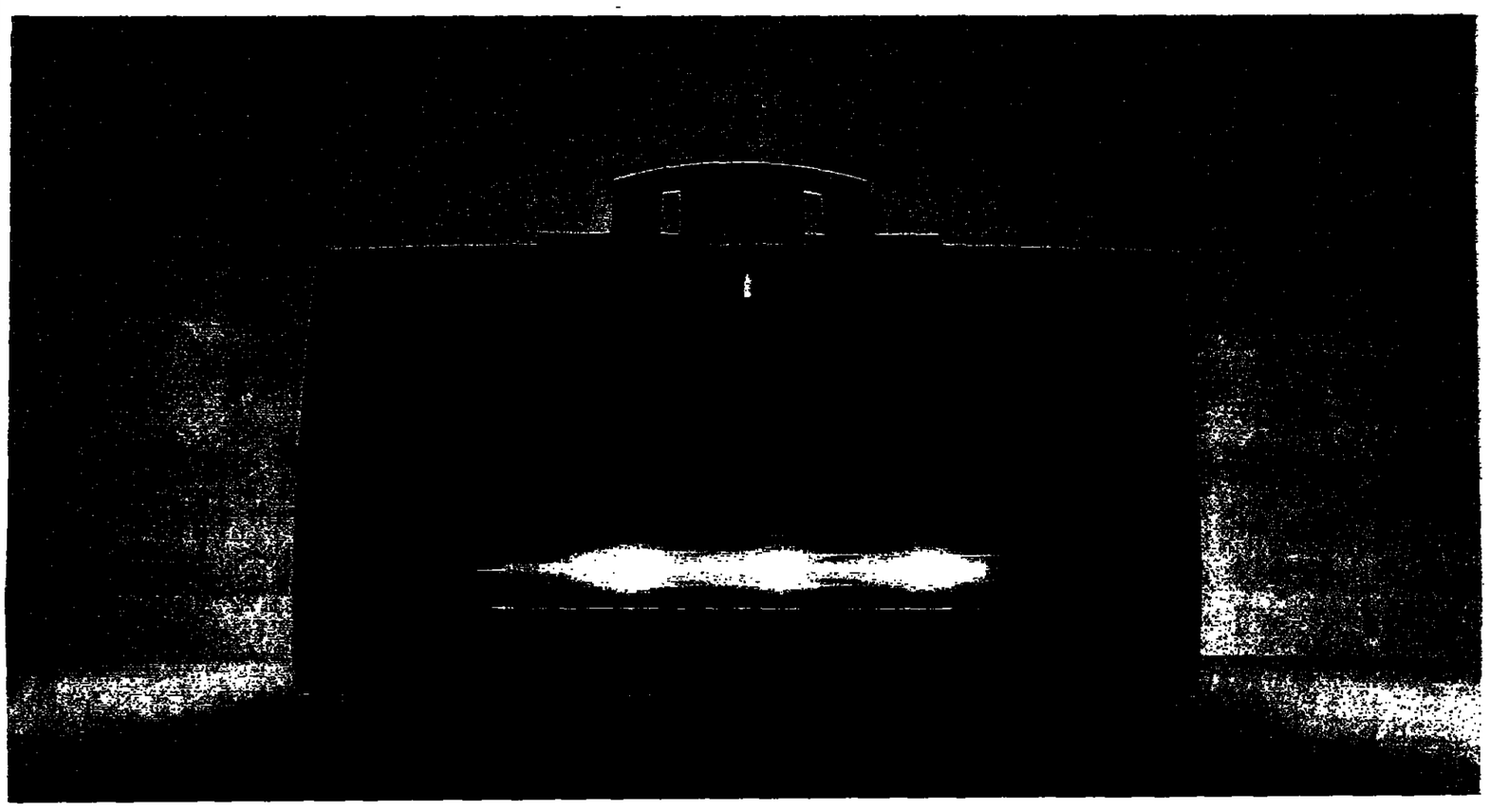
PRACTICE TIMES: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1min 22.147sec; 2, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:22.965; 3, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:23.237; 4, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:23.421; 5, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:23.468; 6, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 1:23.843; 7, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:24.037; 8, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:24.198; 9, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) 1:24.257; 10, O Panis (Fr, Prost) 1:24.272; 11, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1:24.286; 12, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 1:24.311; 13, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:24.430; 14, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:24.888; 15, J Trulli (It, Prost) 1:24.897; 16, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi) 1:25.280; 17, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:25.336; 18, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi) 1:25.525; 19, P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 1:25.770; 20, M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1:26.265; 21, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell) 1:26.371; 22, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart) 1:26.606.

LEADING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1, Hakkinen 26pts; 2, Coulthard 23; M Schumacher 20; 4, Irvine 10; 5, Frentzen 8; 6, Wurz 6; 7, Villeneuve 5; 8, Alesi 3; equal 9, Herbert and Fisichella 1. Constructors: 1, McLaren 49; 2, Ferrari 30; 3, Williams 13; 4, Benetton 8; 5, Sauber 4.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Spanish (Barcelona) May 24: Monaco (Monte Carlo). June 7: Canadian (Montreal). July 12: British (Silverstone). July 26: Austrian (Zeltweg). August 2: German (Hockenheim). August 16: Hungarian (Budapest). August 30: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). September 13: Italian (Monza) September 27: Luxembourg (Nurburgring). October 11: Portuguese (Estoril) November 1: Japanese GP (Suzuka).



Coulthard looks relaxed after practice despite trailing Hakkinen. Photograph: Michael Cooper/Allsport



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Peace deal binds RFU and clubs for seven years



Walkinshaw: stood firm

By David Hands

IT ALL sounds too good to be true. On the eve of the climax to the domestic season, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs emerged yesterday with an agreement signed, sealed and guaranteed for the next seven years that is designed to end two damaging years of internecine warfare.

It will be greeted with relief by the majority in the game sick and tired of the disputatious atmosphere, but equally inevitably there will be echoes of the accusation made by Cliff Brittle, the RFU management board chairman, during this week's meetings, that the RFU negotiators had surrendered to the clubs. Support for the agreement from the RFU council, however, was overwhelming.

In essence, English First Division Rugby (EFDR) has achieved what it wanted in mid-season. Two 14-club leagues will make up next season's Allied Dunbar Premiership, involving the promotion from the Jewson National League first division of four clubs — Worcester, Leeds, London Welsh and Rugby. There will be play-offs to determine the status of London Irish and Bristol, the bottom two clubs in the Premiership first division, who must meet London Scottish and Rotherham from the second division.

But the RFU negotiators insisted upon the protection of the principle of promotion and relegation, even in the difficult circumstances of the 1999 World Cup season, and clubs will not be allowed to postpone fixtures during international weekends. That should offer more opportunity for the promotion of promising youngsters.

The RFU has guaranteed there will be no provincial rugby during the period of the agreement, which extends beyond the 2003 World Cup, while in response the clubs have spelled out as clearly as they can that they have no aspirations to organise representative rugby. The union also believes it has struck the best possible deal over player contracts, with a tripartite agreement binding player, club and union.

"We wanted to reach a situation in which both parties had a shared ownership, we were looking for a win-win situation." Graham Smith, the RFU representative for Kent, who presented the package to the RFU council yesterday, said. "The options were pretty frightening. We reviewed in great detail a no-deal option and we were absolutely certain where that might lead to."

The agreement commits the two parties to introducing the new contract by August this year. "It takes away any conflict and we hope it creates a partnership," Smith said. The players will be released for eight international matches each season — an arrangement which also applies to players from Scotland, Ireland and Wales — and restricts full England players to 37 matches a season. Before the 1999 World Cup, England squad players will be released throughout September and Smith said he believed that the position of Clive Woodward, the England coach, relative to the availability of players had been improved.

The main sticking point between the negotiating teams was probably Europe. The RFU tried desperately to bring the clubs back into the existing framework of the European Rugby Cup but they will not take part in next season's competition and that will have a considerable effect on the commercial value of the tournament.

That will be one stick with which the critics will beat what is known as the Mayfair Agreement and the other is the confirmed intention of the clubs to sustain their appeal to the European Commission against the restrictive by-laws of the International Rugby Board (IRB). The board came down heavily against the clubs last month but Tom Walkinshaw, the Gloucester owner and chairman of the clubs' negotiating team, said: "We have done nothing to contravene IRB regulations.

"We have respected them and will continue to do so. But some of those in force at the moment, and perhaps in the future, cut across European law and we don't think that's acceptable. We are running businesses, we have to comply with the law of the land and we don't think it's right that a sporting body can construct laws that run across the laws of the land."

Saracens looking to Lynagh for a little black magic

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THE men in black have arrived at Twickenham before but they have usually had New Zealand accents. Three times before, however, the funereal garb has cloaked Wasps' assault on the cup and three times they have been rebuffed. Wasps return to headquarters today, but clad in their away strip and facing a new set of men in black.

Saracens have been running an advertising campaign based on the film *Men in Black*, but they are in deadly earnest. The trappings of image-building exercises are one thing, their intent to lift the Tetley's Bitter Cup at the first attempt very much another — it would be the most visible of signs that the Saracens are not what they used to be.

Not the homely club from North London who played decent rugby, got by on a shoestring, produced good players and watched them move somewhere more fashionable. These men in black are drawn from seven countries at considerable expense and have overturned the old order in English rugby with a resolution and a skill that appeals to a far wider audience than those in their new home at Watford.

But the point about Saracens, too, is that they have not forgotten their roots. The old team photographs still line the walls at Southgate, where they work daily, the old guard of administrators who toiled so hard for the amateur club, who remember the occasional international successes such as Vic Harding and George Sherriff, have been carried along into the professional era where they are surrounded by internationals.

This occasion is about far more than a farewell to two greats of the modern game — Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella — about the points gathering of Gareth Rees or the motivational ability of Lawrence Dallaglio. This is the day for Steve Ravenscroft and Shane Roiser, for George Chuter and Paul Volley, the lesser links in the chain.

A few short weeks ago, Wasps could have been written off comprehensively; now they have discovered their most consistent form of the season. Francois Pienaar will even insist that Wasps start as favourites, though the bookmakers disagree with the Saracens coach: Wasps have not shown the capacity to get out of jail, which has been the distinctive feature of Saracens' recent games.

"Nigel Melville knows what it takes to win, his players did it last year in the league," Pienaar said. "We've got one or two who have played in big games but we have others who will be appearing for the first time in front of 70,000 people — it will be a big day for them, a big day for the supporters who have never worn their club colours at Twickenham, a big day for the club." With 15,000 tickets still on sale, there is room still for more to turn up on the day.

So it will, but no less so for Wasps after their failure to build on their 1997 league title. The cup has been their salvation, even though their campaign has been blessed with fortune: only once in four games have they had to play away from Loftus Road.

They have finally established their most competitive pack, which is playing the set pieces as well as anyone: Simon Shaw and Mark Weedon have discovered their best form and Danny Grewcock can strengthen his challenge for a place in the England second row.

With an assertive set scrum, Wasps have created the platform for Mike Friday to prosper. Friday has come from the back to overtake Andy Gomarsall and Martyn Wood at scrum half and his pace on the break is a weapon of which Saracens will surely be wary.

But today represents Saracens' better chance of silverware: they may emerge from this season with a league and cup double but the Premiership rests more firmly in Newcastle's hands. We may see Lynagh and Sella only once again in a competitive match (against Northampton next Thursday) and those home-grown Saracens, such as Ravenscroft and Ben Sturnham, who have learnt so much alongside them, will want to pay their respects in the best conceivable way.

TWICKENHAM DETAILS

SARACENS		WASPS
G Johnson	15	G Rees
B Daniel	14	S Roiser
P Sella	13	M Denney
S Ravenscroft	12	R Henderson
R Constable	11	L Scrase
M Lynagh	10	A King
K Bracken	9	M Friday
R Grau	1	D Molloy
G Chuter	2	S Mitchell
P Wallace	3	W Green
P Johns	4	M Weedon
D Grewcock	5	S Shaw
B Sturnham	6	L Dallaglio (captain)
F Pienaar	7	P Volley
A Diprose (captain)	8	J Worsley

Referee: C White (Gloucestershire) Kick-off: 3pm

TV: Sky Sports 2 (live from 1pm), Channel 5 (highlights, tomorrow, 6pm)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M Olsen, 17 A Lee, 18 M Singer, 19 R Wallace, 20 A Oliver, 21 G Botterman, 22 A Bennett

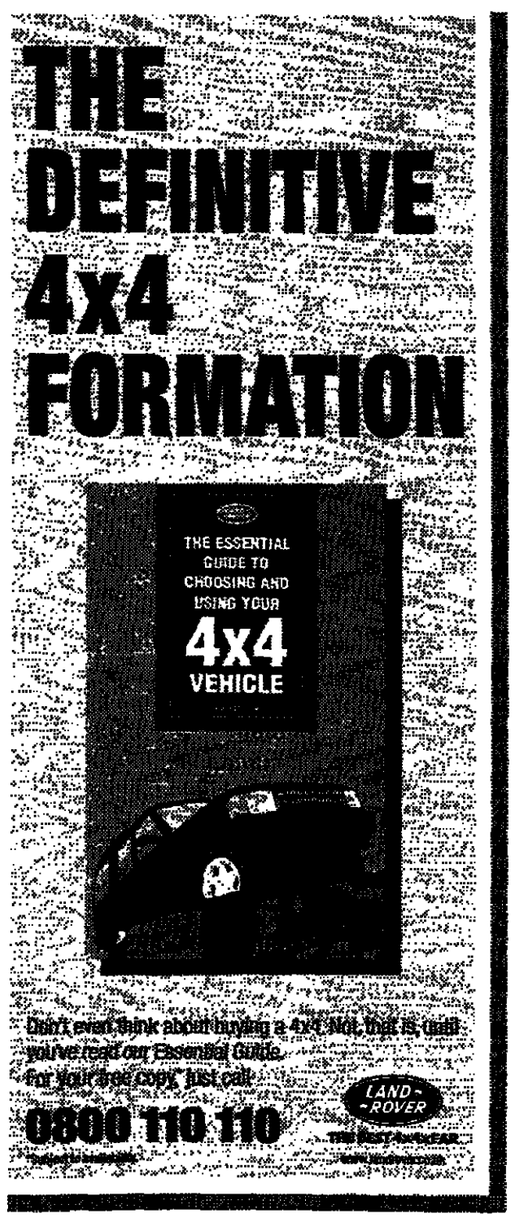
REPLACEMENTS: 16 A Gomarsall, 17 P Sampson, 18 I Dunston, 19 T Leota, 20 A Black, 21 M White, 22 A Read.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
League	21	17	1	3	541	376	83.33
Cup	4	4	0	0	134	84	100.00
Europe	6	5	0	1	211	130	83.33
Total	31	26	1	4	886	590	85.48

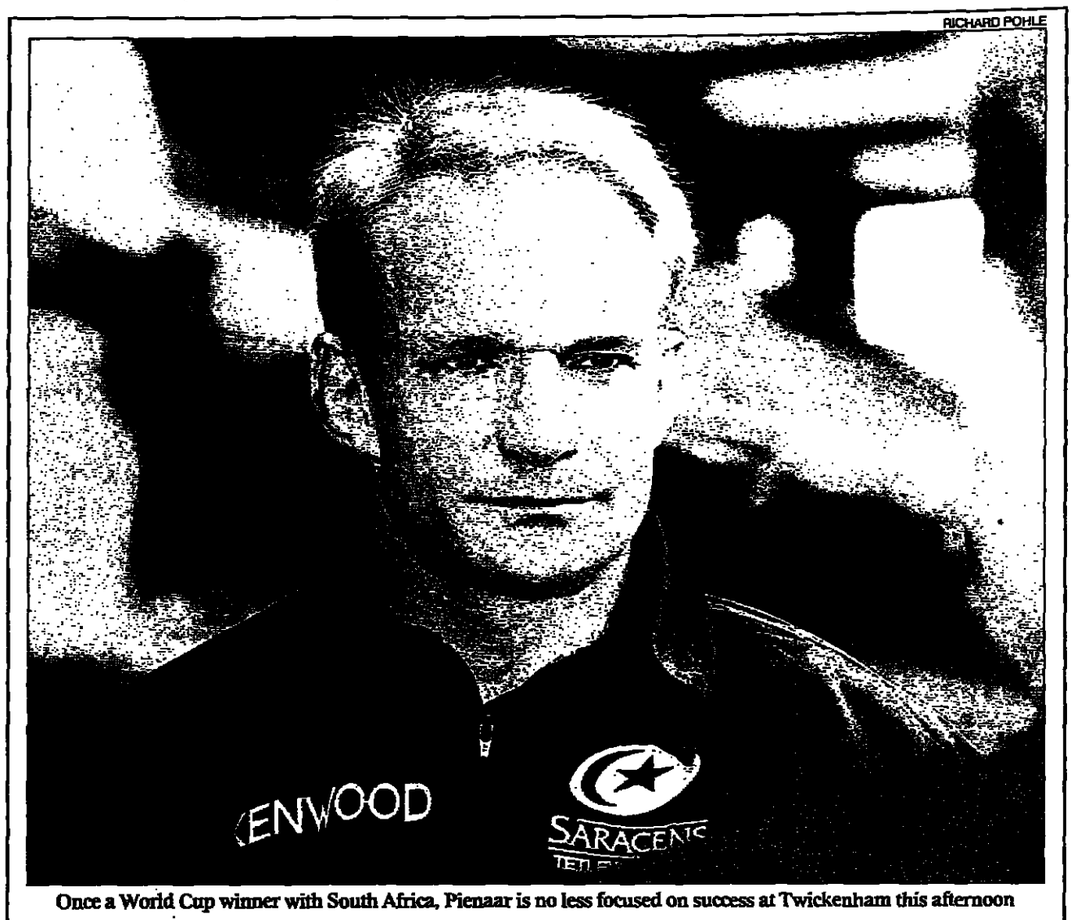
Leading scorers: Points: M Lynagh 377 (7 tries, 57 con, 74 pen, 2 dg) Tries: R Wallace 10, R Constable 8, Lynagh 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
League	21	8	1	12	473	578	40.48
Cup	4	4	0	0	121	50	100.00
Europe	7	6	0	1	261	129	85.71
Total	32	18	1	13	855	757	57.81

Leading scorers: Points: G Rees 427 (1 try, 61 con, 97 pen, 3 dg) Tries: K Logan 12, S Roiser 7, M Friday 6



RICHARD POHLE



Once a World Cup winner with South Africa, Pienaar is no less focused on success at Twickenham this afternoon

A talent to win the world over

The prize is smaller but Francois Pienaar's desire remains the same

DAVID HANDS



Francois Pienaar does not know what he, as coach, will say to his Saracens colleagues in the moments before they run out at Twickenham in a cup final for the first time this afternoon. He has, though, a fund of memories upon which to fall back. Leading teams into 19 finals in his native South Africa, only once did his inspiration not succeed.

That number includes the most famous final of all, in the World Cup against New Zealand three years ago. On the day of that game in Johannesburg, Pienaar was relaxed in the team-room, apparently at ease; hours later, as the teams lined up for the anthems, he was taut with emotion, unable to sing in case it all spilt over. "Any final is an emotional occasion, this will be no different," he said, and you know he means it.

For a time in 1995, Pienaar's was one of the most famous images on the planet — the two men in shirts with the No 6 on the back, the Springboks' captain and Nelson Mandela, exchanging a cup on a day that seemed to promise so much to a united nation.

Nearly three years later, thousands of miles away, can the Tetley's Bitter Cup final mean as much to one who has walked with history? It can, because that is the nature of sport. The moment passes but the game goes on and Pienaar, rejected by rugby administrators at home, needed a new challenge, needed to show to himself and to the world that he remained a player of international quality and an individual of integrity.

It was that second quality, as much as the first, that appealed to Nigel Wray, who has funded Saracens' assault on the cup and the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Wray did not want idols with feet of clay, so he introduced Michael Lynagh, Philippe Sella and Pienaar. How he has been repaid.

Pienaar is not the biggest back-row forward in world rugby, but he has a presence and a power that stand out in the English game. Watch his driving game in the maul, his ferocious hitting power. Above all, watch his care of the game and his direction of colleagues, the intelligence from which Tony Diprose, the Saracens captain and himself a No 8 blessed with perception, can only benefit. "Francois has instilled a kind of desire and belief within the squad," Mark Evans, the Saracens director of rugby, said. "You don't meet too many people like him."

Pienaar, 31, has helped to build a remorseless, professional quality into Saracens typical of the best South African rugby. He has also built himself an entirely new persona — that of missionary. "World Cup hero goes to Watford" would not have been a chapter heading in any putative autobiography two years ago, but now he cannot emphasise enough the significance of today to players and club.

Already he can see changes in the way that the game is played in England — a more positive attitude from players and referees, better facilities, better playing surfaces — and he knows that the journey is going on. He and Nerine, his wife, have settled into a different lifestyle in Hampstead; particularly since the arrival, two months ago, of Jean, their first child.

Pienaar's challenge was to be accepted as a player but, inevitably, it has not stayed that way. He was invited to coach the first XV squad and responded instantly. He says that he has not looked beyond his three-year contract with the club, though he has hinted that he would enjoy one last season of Super 12 rugby, and who knows what public office might have been earmarked for him back home on the strength of the positive image he exudes?

However, Pienaar knows, through harsh experience, that planning ahead is not easy. He might have won more than 29 caps for South Africa but for the very public rejection in 1996 by the incoming coach, André Markgraaff. "Things change," he acknowledges.

"It has been a really fruitful year, but it can all come to nothing if we don't succeed on Saturday," Pienaar said. "The Premiership is not in our hands, it's in Newcastle's hands. We haven't had the best build-up to the cup final, we've had players injured while Wasps have been able to rest some of theirs. It's our first time in the final, as a club, and I only hope the guys can grasp the opportunity."

It is this concern for his colleagues that marks the man. Pienaar learnt it from Kitch Christie, his World Cup coach, whose relationship with his squad was central to South Africa's success in 1995. Three days before his death last month, Christie spoke with his former captain on the telephone.

"I spoke about the final to Kitch because it was rugby, and he was a rugby nut and I'm a rugby nut, that's what we talked about. His last words to me were: 'Cappie, when we get to a final, we don't lose it'." Christie will be on Pienaar's mind today and, by extension, will cast a positive influence over the whole Saracens team. He would have enjoyed that, but even more if Saracens win.

Wales work to find Bowring's successor

By Mark Souster

WALES have begun an international search for a successor to Kevin Bowring, whose departure yesterday leaves only Clive Woodward, of the home union coaches, still in the position that he held at the start of this season. Such are the pressures and demands for instant results and, with the World Cup on the horizon, Wales found it impossible to continue with Bowring, whose demise follows that of Brian Ashton and Richie Dixon, who parted company with Ireland and Scotland respectively earlier this season.

Bowring, who had 18 months of his contract remaining, left the employment of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) by "mutual agreement" after it became clear that their respective visions for the way forward for Wales did not tally. Terry Cobner, the WRU director of rugby, said that Wales were seeking the "best coach in the world who is currently available" to succeed Bowring and that contact with potential replacements from around the world had already been made. Bob Dwyer's name has been linked with the job, but Cobner said that he had not spoken to the former Australia coach, who left Leicester in the new year.

Cobner agreed that an appointment would probably not be made until after the Wales tour to South Africa this summer. The prospect of that proceeding — under the control of a caretaker coach such as Dennis John, of Pontypridd — looked to be far greater last night after another day of political manoeuvring in South Africa that suggested Louis Luyt, the embattled chairman of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) would be resigning imminently after all. The Wales squad for the five-match tour is due to be announced next Friday, having twice been postponed because of the uncertainty in South Africa.

After a Five Nations Championship that included record defeats by England and France, Bowring had drawn up a blueprint with the World Cup in mind, which he was insistent had to be adopted. It included contracting 25 players to the union for the whole of next season, scrapping domestic promotion and relegation, the introduction of an Anglo-Welsh league and the participation of four Welsh provinces in Europe.

However, it was unrealistic to expect that any of these proposals, which would have led to a confrontation with leading clubs similar to that in England, could have been put in place immediately, even with WRU agreement.

Bowring was appointed in November, 1995, from Clifton College, Bristol, where he had been director of physical education. His 33-month reign produced only four victories in the Five Nations and a succession of predictably heavy defeats by New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

Time to put my shoulder into physical encounter

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



The cup is a new tournament this year with a different sponsor and a new era because, for once, the final does not involve Bath or Leicester. Today it is Wasps against Saracens, an all-London final which is great for the capital. Whatever the outcome, there will be a new name on the trophy and we will be doing our best to make sure that it is Wasps.

Our supporters have stuck by us this season and it would be great for them and everyone at Loftus Road if we won. Players have responded to the support and the enthusiasm. I just hope it will be a final to remember. Recent finals have not lived up to expectation but I really feel that this year will be different, that it will be a cracking match between two sides who have deep-rooted, fierce rivalry, as well as respect for each other.

This game has more of an international flavour to it because of all the foreign players but it also has a lot of young aspiring talent, players who want to make their mark — and where better than Twickenham in front of a huge crowd?

Wasps have lost three times there and it is not a nice feeling. We only had ourselves to blame in 1995 so we could have no complaints. We are excited and the team will be extremely motivated. It will be a physical encounter.

Both teams will be pumped up, but the trick is to channel that into the performance. We are all fairly relaxed for a game of this magnitude and our approach has been to treat the final like a normal match. We spent last night in a hotel at Windsor. All the hard work has been done. It is a question of resting: the build-up today will be focused on mental preparation. I just hope that at 5pm I will be lifting the cup. I can assure you the shoulder won't be a problem then!

It has been reassuring to have been able to pick from full strength. It has been difficult to select a final 22 and obviously there will be several disappointed players.

The criterion always has been that players would be picked on form and nothing was predetermined. It was that open. I have been named in the back row, alongside Joe Worsley and Paul Volley.

Paul has been playing well lately and deserves his call up. People may feel sorry for Buster White but there is no room for sentiment at the top level of sport. I believe that Joe has the talent to become one of the best players in the country. He is learning fast and players such as him, Jonny Wilkinson, Iain Balshaw and Matt Perry are the future.

Then there is Gareth Rees, a player who has been able to change with the times and adapt to the needs of the team by switching to full back, and in the last two seasons has played some of his best rugby. His all-round contribution cannot be overestimated. He is world-class and is one of the fast disappearing characters: some people forget to play with a smile on their face. Some players feel pressure more than others, but Gareth thrives on it.

We are on a roll but so are Saracens. They have proved how formidable they can be in recent weeks by winning crucial games, even without their big names. They too will have a lot of disappointed players because the understudies for players such as Bracken, Lynagh and Pienaar have done so well.

We have worked hard to get to Twickenham but getting there is not enough — nobody remembers the losers in a cup final.

In the words of one great captain: "Losing is not an option."

هكذا من الأصل

EQUESTRIANISM

Black puts himself in the market for victory

By Jenny MacArthur

STUART BLACK, of Canada, produced a Badminton debut most riders could only dream about when he and Mr and Mrs Paul Grindle's Market Venture moved into the lead at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials after a dramatic second day of dressage, characterised by several outstanding tests.

Badminton is used to excellence, but it has rarely come in such undiluted form as that displayed by the top five riders yesterday, all of whom achieved a score in the 30s. Market Venture, a 12-year-old son of Welton Apollo, finished on 33.8.

Mark Todd, of New Zealand, rode his best test to date on Broadcast News, his Open European champion, to move into joint second place, equal with Owen Moore, of Great Britain, who produced a delightful performance on Lightfoot, the horse formerly ridden by David O'Connor, of the United States. Moore, who began riding him in January, now appears to have a horse to match his own ability.

Chris Bartle, another Briton, on Word Perfect II, who lying eighth and ninth. Daisy Dick, Thursday's overnight leader, has dropped to twelfth place.

The British-born Black, 38, who moved to Canada as a teenager when his father, Ian, was asked to train the Canadian Young Riders team, is "nervous as a kitten" at finding himself in the lead. A veteran of the past two Olympic Games, he first tried to compete at Badminton last year but had to withdraw when Market Venture developed an abscess.

"I've always dreamt about competing here," he said, "but until then it had not fitted into the plans." Expense was one of the drawbacks and the Grindles, who bought Market Venture from John Hales, owner of the tragic One Man, have paid the horse's $18,000 travel costs for Badminton.

Black, who now lives in Virginia in the United States, may not be easy to dislodge in the cross-country today, for which the going is perfect. He was third at Kentucky in 1996 and twentieth at the Open European championships last September. "The course is big and accurate, but should reward a trained, aggressive horse," he said.

Should he make a mistake, Todd will be quick to take advantage. The dual Olympic gold medal-winner has a formidable record at Badminton. He has won three times and been runner-up twice. Broadcast News, 15, is accurate and scopey — two qualities that will be at a premium today.

Bartle and Funnell both have points to prove after mistakes at Burghley. Bartle, 45, considers it a "four-and-a-half-star track" and intends to attack it accordingly. Funnell, 29, whose resolve has been sharpened by visits to a sports psychologist, intends to take all the quick routes.

She had a chance to display her positive approach yesterday. Bits and Pieces, a striking skewbald owned by Mr and Mrs Richard Jewson, is a head-shaker, and had been "impossible" in the practice area just before his test, but sweetly transformed himself in the arena. "I kept telling myself to stay relaxed," Funnell said.

Other good tests came from Nicky McDonnell, on William Hill, and Ian Stark, on The Moose, who are in tenth and thirteenth places. Stark intends to attack the course in customary style today, despite being strapped into a corset because of a back injury. His doctor had advised that he take six weeks' rest.

Although The Moose has a huge stride, he is agile across country, as he demonstrated when finishing fifth at Blenheim last year.

RESULTS

MITSUBISHI MOTORS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS (after dressage): 1, Market Venture (S Black, Can) 33.8; 2 equal, Broadcast News (M Todd, NZ) and Lightfoot (O Moore, GB) 35.2; 4, Word Perfect II (C Bartle, GB) 6.6; 5, Prince Panache (K O'Connor, US) 37.0; 6, Ready Teddy (B Tait, NZ) 40.4.

decided after watching a video of himself last week that he could "ask for much more" from his 10-year-old gelding, did so and was rewarded with a score of 36.6, moving him into fourth place. Bartle, the Great Britain team trainer, had found time to help six other riders before competing himself. Karen O'Connor, of the United States, completed the formidable line-up in the 30s finishing fifth on Prince Panache.

Helped by better conditions, and more generous marking by the three judges, the overall standard was distinctly higher than on Thursday. Blyth Tait and Ready Teddy, the Olympic champions, are just behind the leaders in sixth place. Lucy Thompson, Ireland's 1995 European champion, is a close seventh on the hard-pulling Welton Molecule — the horse from which she had a fall last year after he "abseiled" into the Quarry Fence.

On a reassuring day for the British selectors, Pippa Funnell, on Bits and Pieces, and Kristina Gifford, on General Jock, two hopefuls for the team for the world championships in October, both produced personal bests and are

Where bravery is not enough

The cross-country at Badminton is the supreme test in equine sport

ANDRE CAMARA



Best boot forward: Tucker, a course designer, puts the work of a colleague at Badminton to the test

SIMON BARNES

Talking horse



What is the most frightening film ever made? I think, on the whole, it was *International Velvet*. But perhaps to your credit you have forgotten about it. This was a brutally sentimental tale that starred (in reverse order) Tatum O'Neal and a horse. I watched the film because I was stuck in a strange town for a week on an assignment for a magazine called *Asian Finance*; it was the only English-language film in town.

And in all seriousness it was terrifying. It was about three-day eventing, and a plucky American girl's flight to the top. By a rum coincidence, she also finds true love. I had then but recently got the horsey bug (like measles, infinitely more dangerous when caught late in life) and had just begun to jump cross-country obstacles.

The film did not seek to minimise the jumps: the height, the breadth, the impossibility, the horror, the horror. The madness of it all was very clear. I know better now, of course. I have jumped a fair few cross-country courses. And I look at cross-country obstacles with a less naive eye, a less impressionable mind than I did in those heady days.

And so I walked the Badminton cross-country course, the course that the competitors in the world's toughest three-day event will take today, and gravely assessed the problems. And once again knew terror.

Up a steepish slope, to a kind of ridiculously elevated golf tee, leaving you about seven feet off the ground. There to jump a big, fat, imposing log. And on the far side? A good deal of fresh air. And, er, that's it. It is a jump into oblivion. A jump off the edge of the world. You could not possibly land on the far side without breaking all four of your horse's legs, and killing yourself besides. This is, beyond all doubt, the mother of all X-rated jumps.

It's actually quite easy. In physical terms, anyway. It was still horrifying. I was walking the course with Mike Tucker, who designed the superb course at Burghley last year. He was there to run an eye over the work of his course-building colleague, Hugh Thomas.

"This isn't in fact a terribly difficult fence," Tucker insisted. Indeed it isn't, not unless being brave is difficult. Because on the far side of the log, the grass slopes gently away, a comfortable and rather forgiving landing-place. It is just that neither horse nor rider can see it.

The jumping technique at this one is simplicity itself. You just hurl your heart over the fence and hope the horse will catch it on the other side. There is no other option. Anything less than full commitment will cause the horse to lose impulsion on the upslope and stop. You must trust the horse to jump, and the horse must trust you never to ask an impossible question. If you tell him the jump is all right, he must believe you.

Three-day eventing is the supreme test of horse and rider; and the cross-country section is the supreme test within the supreme test. This is a fence that tests raw, visceral courage; an obstacle sometimes known among riders as "a bicycle clip fence".

"It is why Badminton is Badminton," Tucker explained more than once. Fences that would be the toughest on the course anywhere else in the world are at Badminton mere routine. The impossible you must do at once: miracles are required a little later down the course.

Fence three is a huge and imposing log-pile: clever use of illusion makes it look still more imposing. And yet athleticism and raw courage are, in a way, the very least of what a Badminton cross-country course is designed to test.

Colonel Frank Weldon, course designer at Badminton for years, defined the course-builder's art for all time: to scare the living daylights out of the riders while allowing the horses to finish safe and sound — that is to say, sound enough to compete in the showjumping the following day.

I write this piece with some care, because eventing is still in shock over the death of David Foster, killed in Ireland a few weeks ago. This is a very dangerous sport. Horses and riders will continue to be killed. I hope very few indeed; but deaths will happen. Pray God not today.

Utterly terrifying: as safe as is humanly and equinely possible. This is a terrifying tightrope to walk along. You cannot treat courage with disrespect, human or equine. Course-builders delve into the minds of riders, ask them questions of courage and skill in as many forms as possible. They also delve into the minds of horses, seeking to give them obstacles that test without injury.

A new obstacle. The Colt Walls. Three possible routes. Every one of them requires physical courage. But one route also requires the courage of the professional gambler: which comes down to knowing when to go for it. The fast route requires you to bet the lot on the accuracy of your riding, the horse's willingness to trust. Leaping the corner is fast: but only for two exceptionally brave beings.

But you see, the corner has been filled in, and a horse that drops a back leg into the fence will not fall and trip and break a leg. The fence will forgive a horse's error. What it will not forgive is a riding error; but the cost comes in time and penalty points, not in injury. The fence attempts to ask the ultimate questions of the skill and courage of the finest riders.

The complex at the water always gets good pictures and some unlucky soul always takes a ducking. But the actual jumps are curved at the top like an upturned boat. A horse can slither over even when making an error. He may lose time, and may well lose his rider, but he should escape without injury.

There is a wonderfully evil-looking fence at something called the Marie Curie Picnic Area: I might just make my position right there, because it is a place from which you can win or lose the competition. Accuracy is needed and the courage, again, to bet everything — in sporting, not life and death terms — on the accuracy and skill of your riding and the utter genuine-

> "You must trust the horse and the horse must also trust you"

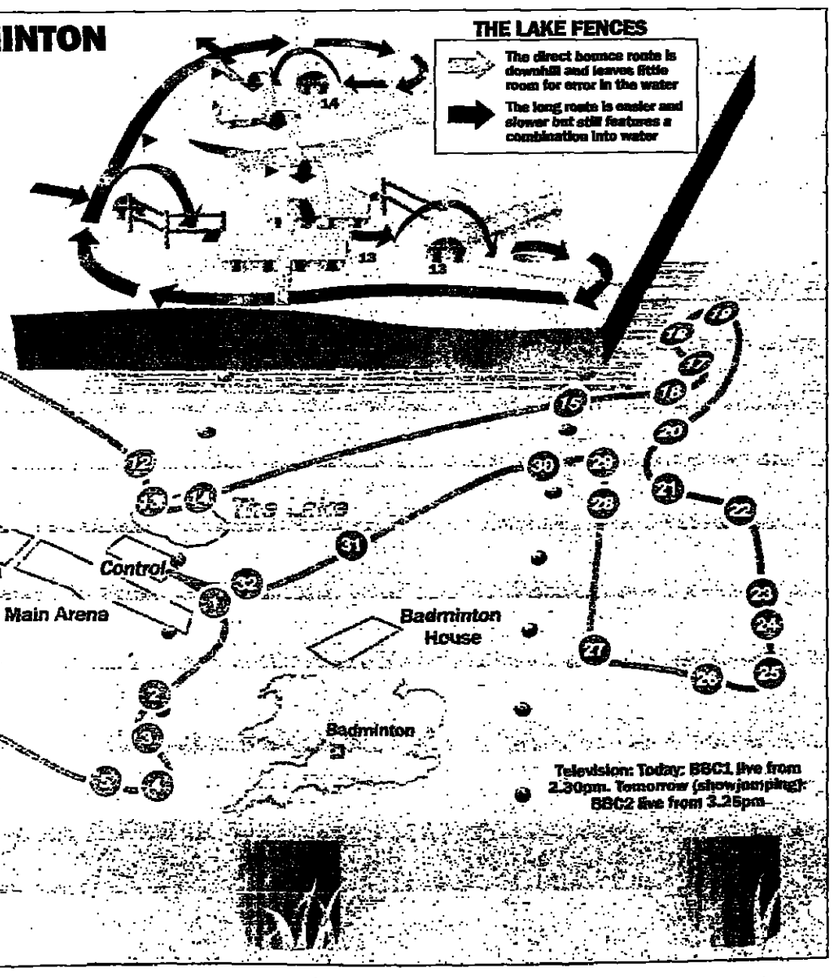
ness of your horse. Genuine. A deeply horsey word, that. It has a meaning that is more or less mystical. It means something to do with a horse's deep-seated willingness to give. This is not a quality to abuse.

There are various ways of making a fence unfair to a horse. You can put down a false ground-line: that is to say, something along the ground that will make him take off too early, or too late. Or you can put fences an unfair distance apart, so that no horse can find a take-off stride. These are things no decent course-builder will do. You do not seek to deceive the horse.

Riders, well, that is a different matter. Fences must seek to dazzle, confuse, throw the mind out of gear. And if you are a course-builder, you know that in a perfect world, one or two riders will beat you, and get home inside the time. You want to be beaten: but not easily, and not by many.

Bravery is not enough to satisfy a good course-builder. A rider can be as brave as a lion and fail to get round Badminton. Fences will catch out any rider who is not perfectly balanced. Momentary loss of control will cost you a run-out, a stop, a fall: failure. Badminton is an extreme test of bravery. But the whole point about a Badminton course is this: bravery is only the starting point.

THE CROSS-COUNTRY COURSE AT BADMINTON



THE LAKE FENCES

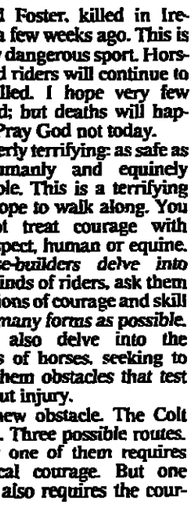
The direct bounce route is downhill and leaves little room for error in the water

The long route is easier and slower but still features a combination into water

THE FENCES

1	Shogun Seats	3ft 9in
2	Sheep Feeder	3ft 11in x 6ft 3in
3	Log Pile	3ft 11in x 6ft
4	Gate	3ft 10in
5	Trakehner	3ft 10in x 9ft
6	Bridge	3ft 9in x 6ft
7	Tree Trunk	3ft 11in
8	Colt Walls	3ft 8in - 3ft 10in
9	Keepers Brush	4ft 7in
10	Little Badminton Drop	*Drop* 6ft 3in Brushes 4ft 3in x 5ft 6in
11	Helsinki Oxer	3ft 10in x 6ft
12	Mitsubishi Pick Ups	3ft 9in x 5ft 6in
13/14	The Lake	3ft 3in - 3ft 10in
15	Galant Hollow	Logpiles 3ft 9in - 3ft 11in
16	Elephant Trap	3ft 11in x 8ft 6in
17	Zig Zag	3ft 11in x 8ft
18	The Bank	Bank 3ft 10in Tree Trunk 3ft 6in Brush 4ft 7in Ditch 6ft
19	Willow Corner	3ft 9in - 3ft 11in
20	Vicarage Vee	3ft 6in - 3ft 10in
21	Carisma Pond	3ft 11in x 5ftb 9in
22	Churn Stand	Hedges 4ft 5in
23/24	Centre Walk	3ft 9in - 3ft 11in
25	Tom Smith's Wells	Hedges 4ft 5in
26	Luckington Lane	3ft 9in x 5ft 9in
27	Cirencester Rails	Tables 3ft 9in - 3ft 11in
28/29	Marie Curie Picnic Area	3ft 9in
30	Sunken Road	3ft 11in
31	Marie Curie Rocking Horses	3ft 10in
32	Mitsubishi Garden	

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RACING: LAMBOURN TRAINER REAPS DIVIDEND FROM NEW STABLE INVESTMENT

Hills to bag brace of classic trials

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

AFTER spending the best part of £1.5 million on a modern, three-barn training complex on the outskirts of Lambourn, Barry Hills has every reason to hope that his horses show the same commitment and help to repay the substantial investment. In recent weeks, the money has looked well spent.

The performances of The Glow-Worm, High And Low and Prolix at Epsom and Chester confirmed that the dapper trainer has an above average crop of three-year-olds this season — and he is hopeful of more success in the two classic trials at Lingfield today.

"I would like to think the new premises have done a good deal to help. We have put a lot of money into them and they are working. If you spend £1.5 million you like to think you have got something right," he said yesterday.

While High And Low, winner of the Cheshire Oaks, is the apple of Hills' eye, he also holds Bristol Channel in high regard and the step up to just short of a mile and a half offered by the Havana Horse Oaks Trial (3.40) should suit the Generous filly. "Like most of my fillies, she's been a bit backward coming into her coat but she is working nicely, will appreciate the faster ground and will stay."

The stoutly bred Trigger Happy may lack the speed for this class of race and, on pedigree, looks more of a stayer. By contrast, Putuna, a recent Epsom winner, is not certain to see out this trip. The biggest danger could be posed by Shimaal, a beautifully bred Godolphin filly. Closely related to Belmez, she split Ashraakat and Virtuous on her debut last August, and would not need to improve much on that form to give **Bristol Channel** a fright.

Hills holds even stronger claims in the Coloroll Derby Trial (4.10), where the progressive Alboostan looks a worthy market leader. As a two-year-old with the late David Morley, the Sabrehill colt improved with every run and ended last season a good third to Second Empire in the Grand Criterium. On his seasonal reappearance at Newmarket 23 days ago, he stepped up on that form when just pipped in the Feilden Stakes by Border Arrow, who went on to finish third in last Saturday's 2,000 Guineas.

Alboostan was entered for the Derby last month at a cost of £8,000 and, although some pedigree experts might question his ability to stay 1½ miles, Hills is not concerned. "I would not be worried. It is not something that has crossed my mind. I think he probably wants the trip."

High Rise, unbeaten in two starts, has not achieved the level of form of the favourite, but is open to considerable improvement. The High Estate colt won with any amount in hand on his seasonal reappearance for the in-form Luca Cumani and he is the main threat to **Alboostan**.

The Tote Sprint Handicap (3.10) has attracted 20 runners but two stand out. Hill Magic is the form choice judged on his second to Sheltering Sky in an all-aged sprint at Newmarket seven days ago. That performance was a stone superior to anything achieved last term.

However, John Dunlop has a potentially smart sprinter in **Surveyor**, who could turn out to be group class. Best on good or faster ground, he showed excellent acceleration when winning a Kempton nursery off top weight last September — and only the ground stopped him running in a group three race at Ascot. Well drawn near the stands' rail, he can carry on where he left off.

Nanoushka's third to Cloud Castle in the Nell Gwyn Stakes is arguably the best form on show in the Milcars Chartwell Fillies Stakes (4.40), but two runners making their seasonal reappearance are more appealing. Ikhteyaar won a listed race at Doncaster last October but the pick could be **Shuhrah**, who beat Ashraakat on her debut at Ascot before finishing third to Name Of Love in a listed Newmarket event.



ANDREW HASSON

Prospectress, right, fends off *Grand Slam to win at Lingfield yesterday*

Dante draws quality field

BORDER ARROW, third to King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas last Saturday, and City Honours, the Godolphin representative, have been installed as 5-2 joint-favourites for the Grosvenor Casinos Dante Stakes at York next Wednesday (*Richard Evans writes*).

The group two race has been one of the best Derby trials in recent years, and the field for next week's renewal looks the strongest for several seasons. Ladbrokes bets: 5-2 Border Arrow, City Honours, 3-1 Saratoga Springs, 5-1 *Dr Fong*, 8-1 Greek Dance, 10-1 Almutawakel, Teapot Row, 20-1 bar.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Legal Lunch
2.40 WUXI VENTURE (nap)
3.10 Hill Magic
3.40 Shimaal
4.10 Alboostan
4.40 Shuhrah

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.40 SHUHRAH.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 Lord Lieutenant. 4.10 HIGH-RISE (nap). 4.40 Ikhteyaar.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.10 TESTERS OF EDENBRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES
(£4,110: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

101 (6) 0/5- COULTHARD 11J (R Brazier) Mrs P Sly 5-9-12 ... M Fenton —
102 (11) PRINCESS EILEEN (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 4-9-7 ... G Carter —
103 (7) 03-0 BRAVE NOBLE 15 (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-11 ... S Whitworth 67
104 (4) 2- LEGAL LUNCH 197 (Alleged Partnership) P Harris 3-8-11 ... W R Swinburn 70+
105 (2) 43- MUDALAL 194 (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 3-8-11 ... R Hills [illegible]
106 (5) 555-0 ORSINO 19 (Mrs J Gittins) S Dow 3-8-11 ... J Weaver 67
107 (10) 6 WHISTLE TEST 24 (D Sullivan) S Woods 3-8-11 ... N Day 73
108 (1) 4 BIG BUYER 21 (R Scully) I Balding 3-8-6 ... M Roberts 76
109 (12) 0- CAREFUL TIMING 197 (R Barnett) M Stoute 3-8-6 ... J Reid 68
110 (3) PASSIONATE PURSUIT (Mrs A Upsdell) S Dow 3-8-6 ... T Quinn —
111 (9) 00 REINE CERISE 11 (I Deane) S Woods 3-8-6 ... R Ffrench 60
112 (8) SCORPION ORCHID (Mrs J Magnier & M Tabor) H Cecil 3-8-6 ... K Fallon —

BETTING: 11-4 Scorpion Orchid, 5-1 Mudalal, 11-2 Legal Lunch, 6-1 Whistle Test, 7-1 Big Buyer, 8-1 others.

1997: SALAMAH 3-8-11 Pat Eddery (evens fav) R Charlton 13 ran

FORM FOCUS: Coulthard 16l 5th of 7 to Yudrik in maiden stakes at Tramore (1m 1f, good). Brave Noble 15l 13th of 14 to Strachin in maiden stakes at Carlisle (7f 214yd, good to soft). Legal Lunch 2l 2nd of 12 to Zaya in 2yo maiden stakes at Doncaster (7f, good). Mudalal 8l 3rd of 13 to Altibr in 2yo maiden stakes at Leicester (7f 9yd, good). Whistle Test 6l 6th of 19 to The Sandfly in 3yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m, soft). Big Buyer 7¾l 4th of 13 to Silca Key Service in 3yo maiden stakes at Newbury (1m, heavy). Careful Timing 7¾l 8th of 18 to Merciless in 2yo maiden fillies at Doncaster (1m, good). Scorpion Orchid Caerleon filly, half-sister to the very useful Negligent.

WHISTLE TEST should have benefited from his promising debut at Newmarket

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS: Bath (2.00 - 5.00), Beverley (2.20 - 4.50), Haydock Park (2.10 - 4.40).

2.40 HSBC JAMES CAPEL HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,711: 1m 1f) (11 runners)

201 (4) 6352-12 WUXI VENTURE 14 (S) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 9-7 ... N Day [illegible]
202 (8) 1242-03 INDIAN MISSILE 14 (F) (R Villers) D Chappell 9-4 ... J Reid 100
203 (2) 023- OBERON'S MISTRAL 242 (Lord Lloyd-Webber) H Cecil 9-3 ... K Fallon 97
204 (10) 222-3 HADITH 11 (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 9-3 ... R Hills 92
205 (5) 00302-0 GREEN JACKET 28 (I Cameron) J Dunlop 8-13 ... T Quinn 100
206 (6) 11-1320 GRALMANO 5 (Coleorton Moor Racing) N Littmoden 8-13 ... J Weaver 79+
207 (3) 0010-00 IMSHISHWAY 16 (B,G) (A Helaissi) B Meehan 8-12 ... W R Swinburn 95
208 (11) 222-0 MUSTIQUE DREAM 30 (W Said) R Charlton 8-11 ... Pat Eddery 94
209 (7) 36558-5 SHERGANZAR 6 (A Solrosiou) R Hannon 8-10 ... Dane O'Neill 98
210 (9) 043-0 CHRYSOLITE 26 (BF) (A Sheail) B Hills 8-7 ... M Hills 86
211 (1) 4-38 MANSA MUSA 21 (Surrey Laminators Ltd) M Channon 8-3 ... A Mackay 96

BETTING: 4-1 Oberon's Mistral, 5-1 Wuxi Venture, 6-1 Indian Missile, 7-1 Hadith, 8-1 Mustique Dream, 10-1 Gralmano, Sherganzar, Chrysolite, Mansa Musa, 12-1 others.

1997: SUPPLY AND DEMAND 9-5 K Fallon (7-4 fav) G L Moore 6 ran

FORM FOCUS: Wuxi Venture 4l 2nd of 10 to Florazi in 3yo handicap at Sandown (1m 14yd, soft) with Indian Missile (1lb better off) 7½l 3rd. Oberon's Mistral 3l 3rd of 10 to Bristol Channel in 2yo maiden fillies at Leicester (1m 8yd, good to firm). Hadith 12l 3rd of 11 to Peak Path in 3yo maiden stakes at Bath (1m 2f 46yd, soft). Green Jacket beaten a distance 7th of 10 to Mister Benjamin in 3yo handicap at Kempton (1m 1f, soft) with Chrysolite (1lb worse off) beaten a distance last. Gralmano 6l 8th of 12 to King Darius in 3yo handicap at Kempton (1m 1f, good). Imshishway 42l 8th of 13 to Tensile in 3yo handicap at Beverley (1m 1f 207yd, soft). Mustique Dream 27l 9th of 11 to The Downtown Fox in 3yo handicap at Leicester (7f 9yd, soft). Sherganzar 7l 5th of 27 to Tom Dougal in 3yo handicap at Newmarket (1m, good). Mansa Musa 7¾l 3rd of 13 to Silca Key Service in 3yo maiden stakes at Newbury (1m, heavy).

SHERGANZAR ran well on his reappearance and should improve for this extra furlong

3.10 TOTE SPRINT HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £36,475: 6f) (20 runners)

301 (9) 011400- BAY PRINCE 203 (F,G) (D Shepherd) M Channon 9-7 ... T Quinn 100
302 (16) 4121- SURVEYOR 230 (CD,F,G) (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 9-2 ... Pat Eddery 111
303 (11) 625216- BEMSHA SWING 219 (D,F) (M Pescod) R Hannon 9-2 ... R Hughes 97
304 (10) 12206-0 MUGELLO 56 (F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 9-1 ... D Sweeney (3) 99
305 (5) 3580-06 BANNINGHAM BLADE 23 (C,F,S) (Crown Select) K Ivory 8-13 ... M Roberts 91
306 (1) 0-12 EPSOM CYCLONE 23 (BF,D,S) (S Bel Ozakis) B Hills 8-8 ... M Hills 108
307 (3) 0416-63 APACHE RED 6 (F) (Mrs T Burns) D Elsworth 8-8 ... K Fallon 101
308 (17) 0030-52 HILL MAGIC 7 (D,F) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) D Elsworth 8-8 ... N Pollard (7) 106
309 (15) 145- HARMONIC WAY 207 (D,F) (Mrs A Crandris) R Charlton 8-8 ... T Sprake 98
310 (13) 2523-1 NIGHT SHOT 42 (S) (J Smith) I Balding 8-7 ... Martin Dwyer 104
311 (4) 010-3 LORD LIEUTENANT 23 (F) (Highclere Racing Ltd) M Bell 8-7 ... M Fenton 114
312 (20) 1435- CARBON 263 (D,S) (I R Corke) Lady Herries 8-5 ... L Dettori 97
313 (8) 22305-3 NUCLEAR DEBATE 22 (J Chester) Mrs J Ramsden 8-5 ... D Holland [illegible]
314 (12) 42361-0 BEWARE 28 (D,S) (Wyck Hall Stud) R Armstrong 8-4 ... A Clark 94
315 (2) 40401-0 SOLO SPIRIT 28 (D,G) (Mrs I Hampson) J Jenkins 8-3 ... J F Egan 96
316 (19) 4320-64 CHIEFTAIN 16 (BF) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 8-3 ... Paul Eddery 109
317 (18) 2201-00 LEGS BE FRENDLY 8 (B,C,G) (BABK Racing) K McAuliffe 8-2 ... R Ffrench 108
318 (7) 42261-3 SUPREME ANGEL 5 (G,S) (Least Moved Partners) M Muggeridge 8-1 ... A Whelan 101
319 (14) 105-545 BLUE KITE 3 (T Clarke) N Littmoden 7-13 ... R Mullen (3) 107
320 (6) 23405-1 RIOJA 23 (D,S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 7-11 ... J Quinn 98

BETTING: 13-2 Surveyor, 8-1 Epsom Cyclone, Hill Magic, 10-1 Lord Lieutenant, Nuclear Debate, Rioja, 12-1 Chieftain, 14-1 Blue Kite, Carbon, Harmonic Way, Night Shot, 16-1 Apache Red, Bemsha Swing, 20-1 others.

1997: YOUDONTSAY 10-0 Dane O'Neill (10-1) T Naughton 9 ran

FORM FOCUS: Bay Prince 8¾l 13th of 26 to Grazia in 2yo auction stakes at Redcar (6f, good to firm) with Lord Lieutenant (11lb better off) 29l last. Surveyor beat Kennet 1¾l in 8-runner 2yo handicap at Kempton (6f, good) with Hill Magic (5lb better off) 13l 7th. Bemsha Swing 7¾l 6th of 8 to Hayil in 2yo group 1 stakes at Newmarket (6f, good). Mugello 14l 10th of 12 to Cretan Gift in handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, Aw, fibresand). Banningham Blade 7¾l 6th of 8 to Yorkies Boy in stakes (listed) at Newmarket (5f, soft). Apache Red 2l 3rd of 9 to Robin Goodfellow in 3yo handicap at Salisbury (6f, good to soft). Hill Magic neck 2nd of 29 to Sheltering Sky in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good). previously 27l 5th of 19 to Dim Ots in 3yo handicap at Kempton (6f, soft) with Beware (5lb better off) 30l 7th, Solo Spirit (5lb better off) 33l 9th and Legs Be Frendly (10lb better off) 87l 17th. Harmonic Way 3¾l 5th of 7 to Social Charter in 2yo stakes at Leicester (7f 9yd, good to soft) with Beware (2lb worse off) 8¾l 6th. Night Shot beat Present Chance neck in 15-runner maiden stakes at Warwick (5f, soft). Carbon 4¼l 5th of 14 to Optimistic in 2yo handicap at York (6f 214yd, good). Nuclear Debate 2l 3rd of 17 to Island Race in maiden auction stakes at Thirsk (6f, good to soft). Chieftain 4¼l 4th of 10 to Easter Ogil in maiden stakes at Beverley (5f, soft). Legs Be Frendly 19l 9th of 14 to Jila in 3yo handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to soft). Supreme Angel 5¼l 3rd of 6 to Island Race in 3yo fillies stakes at Kempton (6f, good). Blue Kite 7½l 5th of 16 to Blundell Lane in 3yo handicap at Chester (6f 18yd, good). Rioja beat Epsom Cyclone (3lb better off) ¾l in 15-runner 3yo handicap at Newmarket (6f, soft) with Lord Lieutenant (7lb better off) 2½l 3rd.

HILL MAGIC, a good second at Newmarket, can make the most of his high draw

3.40 HAVANA HORSE (UK) LTD OAKS TRIAL STAKES C4
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £12,320: 1m 3f 106yd) (6 runners)

401 (2) 01- TRIGGER HAPPY 189 (F) (R Huggins) M Johnston 8-11 ... J Carroll 98
402 (3) 14- BRISTOL CHANNEL 196 (BF,F) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-8 ... D Holland 118
403 (1) 416-2 HADAYIK 11 (F) (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-8 ... R Hills 108
404 (6) 33-1 PUTUNA 17 (S) (R Hitchins) I Balding 8-8 ... M Roberts 104
405 (4) 24- SHIMAAL 228 (BF) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-8 ... L Dettori 100
406 (5) 3410-0 VIRTUOUS 6 (F) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-8 ... W R Swinburn 105

BETTING: 7-2 Shimaal, 4-1 Bristol Channel, Hadayik, 9-2 Putuna, 5-1 Trigger Happy, Virtuous.

1997: CROWN OF LIGHT 8-8 D Peslier (11-2) M Stoute 5 ran

FORM FOCUS: Trigger Happy beat Night Rule 1¾l in 7-runner 2yo stakes (listed) at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). Bristol Channel 5¼l 4th of 13 to Flestiniog in 2yo fillies listed stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, good to soft). Hadayik 3½l 2nd of 4 to Sadian in 3yo stakes at Bath (1m 2f 46yd, soft). Putuna beat Arcavie neck in 10-runner maiden stakes at Epsom (1m 114yd, soft). Shimaal 11l 4th of 14 to Rambling Rose in 2yo maiden fillies at Nottingham (1m 54yd, good to firm). Virtuous 18l 7th of 11 to Midnight Line in 3yo stakes (listed) at Newmarket (1m 2f, good).

TRIGGER HAPPY is stoutly bred and should appreciate this trip

4.10 COLOROLL DERBY TRIAL STAKES C4
(Group III: 3-Y-O: £31,400: 1m 3f 106yd) (6 runners)

501 (5) 3223-12 ACHILLES 17 (S) (Achilles International) N Littmoden 8-7 ... J Weaver 121
502 (1) 1213-2 ALBOOSTAN 23 (BF,G) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-7 ... R Hills 125
503 (3) 62-43 BANKER DWERRY 6 (Dr F Chao) S Woods 8-7 ... N Day 96
504 (4) 04015-3 DASHING CHIEF 17 (F) (Lord Hartington) M Jarvis 8-7 ... P Robinson 111
505 (2) 1-1 HIGH-RISE 18 (G,S) (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) L Cumani 8-7 ... L Dettori 107
506 (6) 1-1 SADIAN 11 (C,S) (Prince A Faisal) H Cecil 8-7 ... K Fallon 102

BETTING: 13-8 Alboostan, 2-1 High-Rise, 9-4 Sadian, 10-1 Achilles, 20-1 Dashing Chief, 66-1 Banker Dwerry.

1997: SILVER PATRIARCH 8-7 Pat Eddery (5-4 fav) J Dunlop 5 ran

FORM FOCUS: Achilles 1½l 2nd of 5 to The Glow-Worm in 3yo stakes at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, soft) with Dashing Chief (levels) 7½l 3rd. Alboostan neck 2nd of 6 to Border Arrow in 3yo stakes (listed) at Newmarket (1m 1f, soft). Banker Dwerry 2l 3rd of 11 to New Abbey in 3yo maiden stakes at Salisbury (1m 4f, good to soft). High-Rise beat Generous Libra 3½l in 8-runner stakes at Pontefract (1m 2f 6yd, good to soft). Sadian beat Hadayik 3½l in 4-runner 3yo stakes at Bath (1m 2f 46yd, soft).

ALBOOSTAN, who found Border Arrow too strong last time, can go one better

4.40 MILCARS CHARTWELL FILLIES STAKES C4
(Listed race: £10,406: 7f) (9 runners)

601 (7) 3320-62 SUPERCAL 8 (CD,F,G,S) (Caledonian RS) D Elsworth 4-9-7 ... S Drowne 102
602 (4) 006/12- LILLI CLAIRE 352 (C,D,F,G,S) (C Leslie) D Elsworth 5-9-3 ... T Quinn 104
603 (6) 300-544 PATSY GRIMES 11 (D,F,G,S) (J Grimes) J S Moore 8-9-3 ... P P Murphy 100
604 (2) 12431-3 HOH CHI MIN 21 (G,S) (D Allport) M Bell 3-8-9 ... J Reid 97
605 (5) 2271- IKHTEYAAR 196 (F,G) (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 3-8-9 ... R Hills 111
606 (9) HERE AND NOW (Thoroughbred Corporation) C Brittain 3-8-5 ... Paul Eddery —
607 (3) 134-6 NANOUSHKA 25 (G) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds II) R Hannon 3-8-5 ... Pat Eddery 100
608 (8) 103- SHUHRAH 217 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-8-5 ... L Dettori 114
609 (1) 04112-5 SPECIAL TREAT 28 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) G Wragg 3-8-5 ... M Hills 108

BETTING: 3-1 Shuhrah, 4-1 Ikhteyaar, Supercal, 6-1 Hoh Chi Min, 7-1 Nanoushka, Special Treat, 8-1 others.

1997: SUPERCAL 3-8-5 Pat Eddery (6-1) D Elsworth 7 ran

FORM FOCUS: Supercal 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Yabint El Sultan in fillies listed stakes at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to soft). Lilli Claire ¾l 2nd of 9 to Out West in stakes (listed) at Goodwood (1m, good to soft) with Supercal (13lb worse off) 15l 8th. Hoh Chi Min 10l 3rd of 7 to Daunting Lady in 3yo group 3 stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, heavy). Ikhteyaar beat Special Treat (4lb better off) ½l in 10-runner 2yo stakes (listed) at Doncaster (6f, good). Nanoushka 3¼l 6th of 7 to Cloud Castle in 3yo fillies group 3 stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to soft). Shuhrah 2¼l 3rd of 8 to Name Of Love in 2yo fillies listed stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with Nanoushka (levels) 5½l 4th.

SHUHRAH can give the Godolphin team another success

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
H Cecil	10	33	30.3	K Fallon	23	88	26.1
G Wragg	9	37	24.3	Pat Eddery	16	69	23.2
M Stoute	14	62	22.6	L Dettori	73	316	23.1
L Cumani	6	27	22.2	J Weaver	82	384	21.4

Mitchell moves closer to title

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

THE independent bookmakers who bet on the national riders' championship put Tim Mitchell top of their lists after he rode four winners last Bank Holiday weekend. That took him into third place with 24 wins, three behind the leader, Andrew Dalton, but Dorset-based Mitchell said yesterday: "It surprised me that I'm favourite for the title."

Today, he heads for the **Minehead Harriers** meeting, where Captain Navar could be his sole ride, although he expects busier weekends before the season ends in five weeks' time.

Mitchell, 30, once courted ambitions to become a professional jockey but growing pains replaced ambition and, by the time he had stopped heading skywards, the tape measure stretched past six foot. He now starves to ride at 12 stone.

"I absolutely love riding good horses and I'm privileged to ride for Richard Barber but I struggle to do the weight, so I don't burden myself with thoughts about chasing titles," Mitchell said. "If I did that, the job could become even tougher, and it's tough enough already."

Jamie Jukes knows how tough. He was ten clear of his rivals in March but the winners dried up and last week he was passed by Dalton and received a thorough kicking in a fall at Cursneh Hill. A six-day suspension for concussion means he is sidelined today, but returns at tomorrow's **Llandeilo Farmers** fixture.

Fiona Needham is chasing a title too — the Yorkshire Area women's championship. Today, she doubles as rider and secretary to the **Bilsdale** fixture, where Joint Account, who unseated her at Sedgefield, could make amends in the confined race.

"Usually we go to meetings hoping the good horses have gone elsewhere to make it easier for us," Needham said. "But for this meeting I want all the good horses to turn up." Cadrillon, who won a Hexham hunter chase, is a case in point, even if he does thwart Indie Rock, Needham's ride in the ladies' race.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Atherstone at Clifton-on-Dunsmore, 2m E of Rugby (first race 2.00), Bilsdale, Easingwold, 14m NW York (2.00); Cumberland, Aspatria, 5m NW town (2.00); Essex, High Easter, 7m N Chelmsford (4.00), Minehead Harriers, Holnicote, 3m W Minehead (2.00): Vale of Aylesbury, Kingston Blount, 7m N High Wycombe (2.30); Ystrad Taf Fechan, Bassaleg, 2m N J28 M4 (2.30) TOMORROW: Llandeilo Farmers, Erw Lon, 10m N Carmarthen (2.00). Old Surrey, Penshurst, 2m S town (2.00): S Notts, Thorpe Lodge, 4m SW of Newark (2.00), Tetcott, Lifton, 3m E Launceston (2.00).

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SURVEYOR
(3.10 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Bristol Channel
(3.40 Lingfield Park)
Nap: BOATER
(3.30 Bath tomorrow)
Next best: Malibu Man
(4.30 Bath tomorrow)

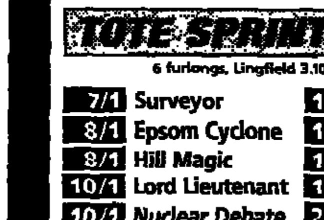
Richard Evans landed a near 19-1 double yesterday with his nap, Bramble Bear (8-1), and Gift Token (6-5).

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Redcar (first race, 2.15), Southwell (AW, 2.00), Towcester (5.50), Windsor (6.05).
TUESDAY: York (C4, 2.05), Hereford (1.50).
WEDNESDAY: *York (C4, 2.05). Lingfield Park (AW, 2.25),* Chepstow (2.15), Folkestone (5.55), Huntingdon (6.05), Perth (6.15).
THURSDAY: York (C4, 2.05), Salisbury (2.15), Perth (2.25).
FRIDAY: Newbury (BBC, 2.10), Nottingham (2.30), Thirsk (2.20), Hamilton Park (6.15), Aintree (5.45), Stratford (6.00).
SATURDAY: Newbury (BBC, 1.30), Newmarket (C4, 2.10), Thirsk (2.15), Bangor (11.50).
SUNDAY: Kempton Park (2.05), Ripon (2.20), Fakenham (2.30).
Flat meetings in bold

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8/1 Hill Magic
10/1 Lord Lieutenant
10/1 Nuclear Debate
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14/1 Apache Red
14/1 Blue Kite
16/1 Bemsha Swing
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GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.20 PADDOCK BAR SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,425: 1m 1f 207yd) (14 runners)

1 (3) 4540 BIN FAA 11 (V) J Scargill 8-12 ... J Fanning —
2 (13) 0-24 CAROUSE 35 (BF) M Channon 8-12 ... J Fortune [illegible]
3 (9) 0-0 DOCKLAND EXECUTIVE 9 B McMahon 8-12 ... Declan O'Shea 43
4 (4) FURTHER RISK Mrs H Walton 8-12 ... J Tate —
5 (12) -003 OPPORTUNE 12 C A Smith 8-12 ... D McKeown 51
6 (14) 0 PERISTRODIUM 31 R Bastiman 8-12 ... G Duffield —
7 (7) 00-0 STRATEGIC AIR 15 E Weymes 8-12 ... K Darley 46
8 (10) ALMOST GOT IT J Parkes 8-7 ... D Harrison —
9 (5) 30-0 CHERISHED 32 (V) N Tinkler 8-7 ... L Charnock 49
10 (6) 0050 DOUBLE APPEAL 21 (V) Mrs G Rees 8-7 ... S Sanders 24
11 (1) -045 DURGAMS DELIGHT 33 B Murray 8-7 ... G Parkin 61
12 (8) 00-0 HERMIECE 89 J L Harris 8-7 ... A Culhane —
13 (11) -004 JOLI FILLE 12 J Wainwright 8-7 ... A McCarthy (3) 41
14 (2) 00-4 SILENT PRIDE 12 M Usher 8-7 ... J Fowle (7) 51

9-4 Carouse, 11-2 Opportune, 6-1 Joli Fille, 7-1 Strategic Air, Durgams Delight, 8-1 Cherished, Silent Pride, 12-1 others.

2.50 LA FEMME LADY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,583: 7f 100yd) (17)

1 (15) 2243 BLOOMING AMAZING 28 (C,F) J Eyre 4-11-7 ... Diana Jones 53
2 (17) 0000 GADGE 12 (D,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-11-2 ... Bridget Gatehouse (5) 52
3 (6) 0-44 BARRESBO 15 (D,G) C Fairhurst 4-10-13 ... Carol Ann Williams (5) 50
4 (12) 014- SILVER LINING 283 (D,F,S) A P Jones 4-10-13 ... Victoria Yeoell (7) 53
5 (4) 60-4 MARYLEBONE 15 Mrs Ramsden 4-10-10 ... Emma Ramsden 45
6 (7) 4-45 MYBOTYE 8 (D,S) R Bastiman 5-10-9 ... Rachel Bastiman (7) 52
7 (3) 1150 BE WARNED 21 (V,D,F,G) J Pearce 7-10-8 ... Lydia Pearce 40
8 (16) 210- EURO SCEPTIC 220 (B,BF,CD,F,G) T Easterby 6-10-7 ... Alison Dowell (3) 57
9 (5) 050- TILAAL 214 M Hammond 6-10-1 ... Alexandra Hammond (7) 35
10 (11) 66-5 MR CUBE 5 (B,D,F,G,S) J Bradley 8-9-12 ... Claire Bryan (7) 58
11 (10) 040- SAINT ALBERT 242 P Walwyn 3-9-8 ... Susannah Sainsworth (3) 31
12 (14) 5300 HOLDERNESS GIRL 16 Miss J Craze 5-9-5 ... Heather Webster (5) 31
13 (13) 030- BREEZED WELL 232 K Wingrove 12-9-5 ... Hazel Noonan (5) [illegible]
14 (2) /040 INFIRAAJ 63 S Bowring 6-9-3 ... Esther Wright (7) 39
15 (11) 00-0 PRIORY GARDENS 32 J Bradley 4-9-3 ... Diane Wilkinson (7) 40
16 (8) 50-0 SERAPE 9 M Pettit 5-9-3 ... Margaret Duffield (7) 40
17 (9) 04-0 ZAHRAN 42 (CD,F) J Bradley 7-9-3 ... Samantha Beddoes (5) 47

4-1 Marylebone, 6-1 Euro Sceptic, 7-1 Blooming Amazing, Be Warned, 8-1 Barresbo, Mr Cube, 10-1 Gadge, Mybotye, 12-1 others.

3.20 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES (Handicap: £4,536: 1m 100yd) (19)

1 (12) 1111 NIGHT OF GLASS 7 (B,D,F,G,S) J Eyre 5-10-0 ... K Darley 87
2 (2) 00-0 QUEENS CONSUL 7 (CD,F,G,S) B Rothwell 8-9-13 ... O Pears 85
3 (19) 050- MOVING ARROW 221 (D,F,G,S) Miss S Hall 7-9-10 ... D McKeown 97
4 (7) 000- FAMILY MAN 75J (D,F) J Fanshawe 5-9-6 ... D Harrison 76
5 (6) 1046 WEETMAN'S WEIGH 7 (F,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-6 ... A McCarthy (3) 78
6 (3) 40-0 XYLEM 21 (D,F,G,S) J Gosden 7-9-2 ... A Garth 74
7 (13) 0-40 SHALAAL 51J (S) M Chapman 4-9-0 ... S Carson (7) 90
8 (15) 1-00 JEDI KNIGHT 7 (D,F,G) M W Easterby 4-9-0 ... L Charnock 97
9 (1) 5-00 ROYAL RESULT 7 (D,F) M W Easterby 5-9-0 ... T Lucas 81
10 (8) 4-30 BEN GUNN 21 (D,F,G,S) P Walwyn 6-8-13 ... S Sanders 89
11 (18) 0-41 THREE FOR A POUND 22 (D,G,S) J Glover 4-8-13 ... J Fortune 91
12 (4) -20 CEE-N-K 38 (C,D,F) E Alston 4-8-12 ... G Duffield 73
13 (10) 0435 GREY KINGDOM 7 (C,G,S) M Brittain 7-8-12 ... D Mernagh (7) 82
14 (16) -050 INDIUM 8 W Musson 4-8-11 ... T G McLaughlin 71
15 (17) 00-0 BOLLIN FRANK 16 (D,F,S) T Easterby 6-8-9 ... T Williams 93
16 (5) 20-0 BROCTUNE GOLD 22 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-8-4 ... A Culhane 97
17 (14) 00-0 JACK FLUSH 22 (D,S) B Rothwell 4-8-2 ... R Winston (5) [illegible]
18 (11) -120 BOLD FAITH 53 (BF,D,G,S) W Musson 5-7-13 ... Dale Gibson 84
19 (9) 500- MURPHY'S GOLD 203 (F,G) R Fahey 7-7-10 ... S Maloney 76

6-1 Night Of Glass, 7-1 Three For A Pound, 10-1 Family Man, Weetman's Weigh, Xylem, Ben Gunn, Grey Kingdom, 12-1 others.

3.50 IRWINS HAVE BUILT IT CONDITIONS STAKES (£6,069: 5f) (6)

1 (2) 01-0 YA MALAK 7 (CD,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-9-10 ... Alex Greaves 121
2 (4) 206- ALMATY 219 (D,F,G,S) W Muir 5-9-8 ... K Darley 116
3 (1) 103- MIDNIGHT ESCAPE 185 (D,F,G) C Wall 5-9-8 ... S Sanders 114
4 (5) 24-0 BISHOPS COURT 21 (D,G) Mrs Ramsden 4-8-10 ... J Fortune [illegible]
5 (6) 50-0 BOLSHOI 7 (B,CD,F,G) J Berry 6-8-10 ... C Lowther (3) 122
6 (3) 34-0 VENTURE CAPITALIST 21 (F,G) D Nicholls 9-8-10 ... F Norton 116

11-4 Ya Malak, 3-1 Midnight Escape, 9-2 Bishops Court, 5-1 Bolshoi, 11-2 Almaty, 8-1 Venture Capitalist.

4.20 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP
(£4,458: 5f) (20)

1 (5) 6-13 DAAWE 9 (D,F,G,S) J Glover 7-10-0 ... S D Williams 76
2 (19) 3031 DOUBLE OSCAR 9 (B,D,G) D Nicholls 5-10-0 ... A Nicholls (7) 84
3 (13) 0-40 LEVELLED 26 (BF,D,F,G) M Channon 4-9-10 ... K Darley 89
4 (17) -001 YOUNG BIGWIG 7 (D,F,G) D Chapman 4-9-9 ... A Culhane 87
5 (2) 0/60 HAWA AL NASAMAAT 5 (F) M Brittain 6-9-9 ... D Mernagh (7) 84
6 (18) 0-24 PRESENT CHANCE 32 B McMahon 4-9-8 ... L Newton [illegible]
7 (1) 4125 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 29 (V,D,F,G,S) D Shaw 8-9-5 ... R Winston (5) 77
8 (14) -030 JUST BOB 15 (D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 9-9-4 ... P Fredericks (7) 76
9 (15) 4126 MUNGO PARK 12 (D,F,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-4 ... J Fortune 97
10 (3) 0000 GORETSKI 7 (CD,F,G,S) N Tinkler 5-9-3 ... Kim Tinkler 74
11 (10) 600- RIVER TERN 229 (D,F,G) J Bradley 5-9-0 ... C Lowther (3) 77
12 (4) 0000 SWAN AT WHALLEY 7 (D,G,S) R Fahey 6-8-13 ... O Pears 69
13 (6) -003 RUM LAD 12 (D,F,S) J J Quinn 4-8-10 ... J Lowe 81
14 (8) 0009 SWYNFORD DREAM 21 (F,G) J Hetherton 5-8-6 ... N Carlisle 71
15 (12) 4-00 DANGERMAN 7 M W Easterby 3-8-7 ... G Parkin 66
16 (20) -324 JUST DISSIDENT 71 (D,F,G) R Whitaker 6-8-3 ... D McKeown 79
17 (9) 00-4 WILLIAM'S WELL 7 (B,D,F,G) M W Easterby 4-8-3 ... S Finnamore (7) 83
18 (16) 60-6 STORYTELLER 7 (V,D,G) M Dods 4-8-1 ... Dale Gibson 75
19 (11) 40-5 CAMIONNEUR 7 (B,F) T Easterby 5-8-0 ... L Charnock 94
20 (7) 000- DOMINELLE 246 (CD,F) T Easterby 6-7-10 ... D Wright 75

5-1 Double Oscar, 7-1 Mungo Park, 8-1 Young Bigwig, 9-1 Just Bob, 10-1 Present Chance, Rum Lad, Just Dissident, 12-1 others.

4.50 GADIES PAINTING HANDICAP
(£3,097: 2m 35yd) (17)

1 (17) 1015 NOUFARI 14 (D,G) R Hollinshead 7-9-10 ... A McCarthy (3) 70
2 (14) 6-40 ARCADY 18 (D,F) J L Harris 5-9-6 ... R Winston (5) 75
3 (13) 2653 MONDRAGON 39 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-6 ... A Culhane 68
4 (10) 280- ASTRO LINES 43J F Murphy 4-9-3 ... D McKeown —
5 (9) 24-3 CHARMING ADMIRAL 10J Mrs A Swinbank 5-9-0 ... G Duffield 78
6 (1) 53-2 ARISAIG 39 (B) P Calver 4-8-13 ... J Fortune 75
7 (12) 03-6 SWIFTWAY 7 K Hogg 4-8-12 ... R Lappin 74
8 (7) 0510 HIGHFIELD FIZZ 12 (BF,F,S) C Fairhurst 6-8-10 ... L Charnock 69
9 (2) 0-16 JUCINDA 18 (S) J Pearce 4-8-9 ... D Harrison 66
10 (4) 00-0 ARIAN SPIRIT 30 (V,CD,F,S) J Eyre 7-8-7 ... K Darley [illegible]
11 (11) 0/0- SUUD 418J M Pitt 6-8-5 ... J Fanning —
12 (6) 640- ES GO 173 R Bastiman 5-8-4 ... D Wright 67
13 (16) -001 KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 5 (C,G,S) J Parkes 8-8-4 (6ex) ... G Bardwell 70
14 (3) 150- RANGER SLOANE 14J (D,G) G Fierro 6-8-3 ... N Carlisle 62
15 (8) /40- NON VINTAGE 26J (G,S) M Chapman 7-8-3 ... S Carson (7) 60
16 (15) 0-41 BLACK ICE BOY 12 (B,CD,F) R Bastiman 7-8-2 ... C Cogan (7) 70
17 (5) 086- SPA LANE 177J (F,S) Mrs S Lamyman 5-7-10 ... N Kennedy 70

6-1 Mondragon, 7-1 Arisaig, 8-1 Kilnamartyra Girl, 10-1 Noufari, Charming Admiral, Highfield Fizz, Jucinda, Ranger Sloane, Black Ice Boy, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 3 winners from 13 runners, 23.1%; J Pearce, 4 from 19, 21.1%, R Bastiman, 4 from 20, 20.0%, J Berry, 19 from 112, 17.0%; E Alston, 4 from 25, 16.0%; A Bailey, 3 from 19, 15.8%.

JOCKEYS: K Darley, 49 winners from 215 rides, 22.8%, Alex Greaves, 5 from 40, 12.5%. Only qualifiers.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

2.00 Thunderpoint. 2.30 Donnybrook. 3.00 Flutterby Lady. 3.30 Belle Busk. 4.00 Into The Black. 4.30 Blazing Dawn. 5.00 Charley Lambert.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 GRANT WILLIAMSON ACCOUNTANTS NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £2,034: 2m) (13 runners)

1 5P25 THUNDERPOINT 56 (B,G) T Easterby 6-11-6 ... L Wyer
2 300 BRANCH END 69 J Charlton 5-11-0 ... B Storey
3 -PP5 CHAIN LINE 10 J Aynsley 8-11-0 ... R McGrath (3)
4 KIMOTHY Miss R Brewis 5-11-0 ... A Dobbin
5 -803 MO'S BOY 10 Mrs S Smith 7-11-0 ... S Porritt (7)
6 -030 OVAHANDY MAN 43 J Gledson 7-11-0 ... K Johnson
7 2060 SNOOTY ESKIMO 26 J Haldane 6-11-0 ... A S Smith
8 PFP0 TARTAN TEDDY 8 W Reed 8-11-0 ... T Reed
9 5006 THE OTHER HALF 17 L Lungo 6-11-0 ... Mr B Gibson (7)
10 P600 ALLERBECK 26 J Goulding 8-10-9 ... L Cooper (7)
11 P BUTTERNUT SAL 10 D Lamb 7-10-9 ... J Burke
12 3654 PHEASANTS DELIGHT 14 Mrs M Reveley 8-10-9 ... P Niven
13 60P TOM'S MAN 64 G White 4-10-9 ... S Melrose (7)

5-4 Thunderpoint, 5-1 Pheasants Delight, 6-1 Mo's Boy, 7-1 The Other Half, 8-1 Branch End, 12-1 Chain Line, 14-1 others.

2.30 GRANT WILLIAMSON ACCOUNTANTS NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £2,034: 2m) (13)

1 5001 JUST HUSH 10 (D,S) R Nixon 5-11-1 ... A Dobbin
2 0063 BIROTEX BOY 14 C Grant 5-11-0 ... J Callaghan
3 PUPF DANTES AMOUR 46 B Ellison 7-11-0 ... B Harding
4 P042 DONNYBROOK 26 R Woodhouse 5-11-0 ... L Wyer
5 PR00 PENDLETON 14 P Beaumont 5-11-0 ... R Garritty
6 00 PORTER PADDY 10 L Lungo 6-11-0 ... R Supple
7 38 ROSSMAR 35 Mrs S Smith 5-11-0 ... R Wilkinson (5)
8 0P SHARDANTE 19 J Jefferson 5-11-0 ... E Callaghan
9 P BETTYBROOK 19 J Goulding 7-10-9 ... K Johnson
10 0068 CHANTILLY ROSE 10 Miss R Brewis 6-10-9 ... A S Smith
11 FIERY BELLE W Storey 5-10-9 ... R McGrath (3)
12 0 NAUGHTY FEELINGS 86 W Mckeown 4-10-9 ... Mr G Lake (7)
37 P0-0 CASHAPLENTY 156 J Jefferson 5-0-0

7-4 Donnybrook, 9-2 Birotex Boy, 5-1 Rossmar, 6-1 Just Hush, 10-1 Porter Paddy, 16-1 Pendleton, 20-1 others.

3.00 PENSHER SECURITY DOORS SELLING HURDLE (£1,913: 2m) (14)

1 P1P1 MITHRAIC 5 (D,F,G) W Cunningham 6-11-7 ... R McGrath (3)
2 -UPP BALCONY BOY 25 (B) R Woodhouse 6-11-0 ... A S Smith
3 0664 COURT JOKER 40 (G) H Alexander 6-11-0 ... Mr T J Barry (7)
4 F0-P DORANS WAY 15 (S) M Todhunter 7-11-0 ... M Moloney
5 56 ENERGY MAN 106F M Dods 5-11-0 ... A Dobbin
6 PPF HARRY GAZZUMPED ME 90P F Murtagh 7-11-0 ... J Supple
7 0P00 PROPHITS PRIDE 16 (D,F) P Monteith 6-11-0 ... I Jardine (7)
8 2020 FLUTTERBY LADY 46 L Lungo 5-10-9 ... R Supple
9 0 GILDORAN SOUND 77 R Johnson 5-10-9 ... K Johnson
10 00P6 PETITE BUSH 53 B Ellison 5-10-9 ... E Callaghan
11 FP00 PIEREX 19 J Charlton 7-10-9 ... B Storey
12 PPPP SINGING PROFIT 15 W Young 6-10-9 ... S Taylor (3)
13 05/2 WOODRISING 26 (D,G) C Egerton 6-10-9 ... J A McCarthy
14 4P65 LA PERDOMA 168 Miss K Milligan 4-10-4 ... B Harding

7-4 Mithraic, 5-2 Woodrising, 9-2 Court Joker, 7-1 Flutterby Lady, 12-1 Energy Man, 25-1 Harry Gazzumped Me, Prophits Pride, Pierex, 33-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%, L Lungo, 22 from 84, 26.2%, G M Moore, 18 from 74, 24.3%, M W Easterby, 6 from 30, 20.0%; P Monteith, 8 from 41, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: W Dowling, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%, A Dobbin, 21 from 86, 24.4%; E Callaghan, 7 from 34, 20.6%; P Niven, 18 from 92, 19.6%; L Wyer, 7 from 41, 17.1%.

3.30 CONSETT CHRISTMAS NOVICES CHASE
(£3,285: 3m 1f) (18)

1 54-P ABBEY LAMP 51 (G) Miss L Russell 9-11-2 ... G Lee
2 P85P BABY JAKE 60 (S) J Howard Johnson 8-11-2 ... A S Smith
3 P542 BARDAROS 47 (F,G,S) Miss L Russell 9-11-2 ... M Foster
4 000P BRANDSBY MINSTER 51 P Beaumont 7-11-2 ... R Supple
5 -44U CROFTON LAKE 7 (F) J Dixon 10-11-2 ... DOUBTFUL
6 FPP/ CUMBERLAND GAP 728P J Howard Johnson 7-11-2 ... E Callaghan
7 0444 FENLOE RAMBLER 14 R Johnson 7-11-2 ... K Johnson
8 PPPP FOREVER SHY 81 Mrs K Lamb 10-11-2 ... Miss S Lamb (7)
9 505U ROBARA 7 (F) M Barnes 8-11-2 ... S Taylor (3)
10 FF-P SAFETY FACTOR 150 (F) D Alder 10-11-2 ... D Bentley
11 6-PP SHAWWELL 70P (F) J Charlton 11-11-2 ... B Storey
12 4304 SILLARS STALKER 21 (F,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 10-11-2 ... J Supple
13 PP3P SINGLE SOURCING 43 (F,S) A Whillans 7-11-2 ... R Garritty
14 42-1 SLAUGHT SON 16 (D,F,G,S) M Todhunter 10-11-2 ... B Harding
15 3330 UP FOR RANSOME 52 (F) Mrs A Naughton 9-11-2 ... D Parker
16 3215 BELLE BUSK 15 (S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-11 ... R Wilkinson (5)
17 P55U GAME POINT 40 D Lamb 9-10-11 ... J Burke
18 -110 HALF EACH 11 (F,G) Miss K Milligan 6-10-11 ... A Dobbin

3-1 Slaught Son, 6-1 Belle Busk, 7-1 Bardaros, Up For Ransome, 8-1 Fenloe Rambler, Sillars Stalker, 10-1 Baby Jake, Single Sourcing, 14-1 others.

4.00 CARNAUDMETALBOX CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,425: 3m) (12)

1 320P GALE AHEAD 89 (CD,F,G) G M Moore 8-11-7 ... W Dowling (3)
2 0015 INTO THE BLACK 24 (S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-7 ... G Lee
3 0441 ROMAN OUTLAW 19 (C,S) M Hammond 6-11-7 ... N Horrocks (3)
4 6-60 ALLERBY 150 J Goulding 10-11-0 ... L Cooper (5)
5 F-0 BADGER HILL 206 Mrs A Naughton 5-11-0 ... M H Naughton
6 P00- BLOOD BROTHER 371 D Barker 6-11-0 ... F Leahy
7 -552 HAND OF STRAW 7 (V) A Whillans 6-11-0 ... B Harding
8 6026 HIRT LODGE 26 J Dixon 7-11-0 ... S Taylor
9 5630 MR WALT 14 J Jefferson 5-11-0 ... E Callaghan
10 P044 ROYAL SPRUCE 26 G M Moore 7-11-0 ... T Hogg (5)
11 -6UP WEST LUTTON 7 M W Easterby 6-11-0 ... P Midgley
12 0 PRIMROSE HILL 8 H Alexander 5-10-9 ... R McGrath

5-2 Roman Outlaw, 3-1 Into The Black, 5-1 Hand Of Straw, 6-1 Gale Ahead, 7-1 Hirt Lodge, 10-1 Mr Walt, 14-1 Royal Spruce, 33-1 others.

4.30 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,054: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 F443 SHINING EDGE 60 (D,F,G) T Easterby 6-11-10 ... L Wyer
2 P300 HIGHBANK 64 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-9 ... G Lee
3 3434 HAM N'EGGS 10 (V,D,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-8 ... Mr C Bonner (3)
4 -3P5 BOLD ACCOUNT 68 (B,G) G M Moore 8-11-5 ... J Callaghan
5 1330 PAPARAZZO 40 (CD,G) G M Moore 7-11-3 ... A Dobbin
6 3416 ANOTHER RED 218 (BF,D,F,S) W Raw 10-10-12 ... R McGrath (3)
7 22F4 FERN LEADER 7 (B,S) C Grant 8-10-11 ... R Garritty
8 4F51 BLAZING DAWN 7 (CD,F,S) J Hubbuck 11-10-11 ... B Harding
9 006F NOBLE NORMAN 40 (G) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-8 ... P Niven
10 4351 PARSON'S LODGE 7 (D,G,S) L Lungo 10-10-7 ... R Supple
11 40P0 GONE ASHORE 128 (CD,F) M Barnes 7-10-3 ... B Storey
12 -55P NORTH PRIDE 7 (D,F,S) M Barnes 13-10-0 ... S Taylor (3)

4-1 Blazing Dawn, 9-2 Shining Edge, 11-2 Fern Leader, 13-2 Noble Norman, 7-1 Ham N'Eggs, Paparazzo, 8-1 Parson's Lodge, 10-1 others.

5.00 TAILOR-MADE HOMES UK LTD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,546: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 1520 TOSHIBA TALK 40F (C,F,S) B Ellison 6-11-10 ... A Dobbin
2 2140 CHARLEY LAMBERT 56 (D,F,G) J Mackie 7-10-11 ... E Husband (3)
3 3FP0 GLOBAL LEGEND 17 J Howard Johnson 6-10-7 ... A S Smith
4 3240 APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 26 (C,F,G) J Goulding 10-10-2 ... L Cooper (7)
5 0F56 STYLISH INTERVAL 8 (F) D Smith 6-10-1 ... B Storey
6 P012 VILPRANO 51 (F,G) D Moffatt 7-10-0 ... M Gault (7)
7 -050 THE STITCHER 19 (CD,F,G) W Reed 8-10-0 ... T Reed
8 225P DONT FORGET CURTIS 150 (C,G) Mrs K Lamb 8-10-0 ... Miss S Lamb (7)
9 0023 HUNTING SLANE 14 C Grant 6-10-0 ... R Supple

7-2 Charley Lambert, 9-2 Toshiba Talk, Vilprano, 7-1 Apollo's Daughter, 8-1 Stylish Interval, Dont Forget Curtis, 10-1 Global Legend, 12-1 others.

RACING

With The Flow can stem strong tide of British raiders

By Our French Racing Correspondent

BIG fields and drying ground make the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains and *Dubai Poule* d'Essai des Pouliches (French 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas), screened by BBC2 at Longchamp *tomorrow*, particularly difficult to solve.

The Poulains features seven British challengers among its 13 runners, but they may have to give best to the unbeaten Criquette Head-trained favourite, With The Flow.

A full-brother to River Mist, who finished first in this race in 1985 only to fall foul of the stewards, With The Flow has an uncomplicated front-running style. He beat Loudeac, Pinmix, No Lies and Charge D'Affaires in the group three Prix de Fontainebleau over this course and distance three weeks ago.


Head: classic hopes

That was on heavy ground and Loudeac, the three-length runner-up, was tenderly handled. *But With The Flow* showed his effectiveness on a sound surface when easily winning the Prix Montenica at *Saint-Cloud* at the end of March and should confirm those placings.

Victory Note, La-Faah and Merlin's Ring, the first three home in the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes, reoppose. It would be no surprise to see that form overturned, with Merlin's Ring likely to be much better suited by this faster ground.

The other British challengers are Desert Prince, the Free Handicap winner, the Godolphin pair, Altibr and Zaya, who both won their only starts last season, and Muhtathir, who failed to stay when third to *Courteous* in the Thresher Classic Trial at Sandown.

Zalaiyka looks sure to start favourite for the Pouliches, despite having been declared an unlikely runner by trainer Alain de Royer-Dupré on Tuesday because of a minor injury. She ran out the cosy winner of the group three Prix de la Grotte, beating Miss Berbere by a length and a half. Given that she may not be 100 per cent fit, it could pay to oppose her with the Alec *Stewart-trained* **Elshamms**.

A promising fourth to Cloud Castle in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes, Elshamms has been showing enough in her subsequent homework to merit a supplementary entry here.

The only other British raider is Godolphin's well-bred Leicester maiden winner, La Nuit Rose, while Ireland will be represented by Kincara Palace, who was a game winner of a listed event on heavy ground at the Curragh last Saturday.

The £47,298 Prix Lupin, also televised, should go to **Croco Rouge**, who won the group two Prix Greffuhle over this course and distance three weeks ago. The Saeed bin Suroor-trained Mudeer, touched off by Saratoga Springs in the Racing Post Trophy at *Doncaster* last term, could give Croco Rouge most to do.

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW BBC2

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.15 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULICHES
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £101,010: 1m) (15 runners)

1 (13) 13- CYRILLIC 201 (D,S) (K Abdulla) M Zilber 9-0 ... T Thulliez
2 (11) 511-1 ZALAIYKA 21 (CD,G,S) (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer-Dupre 9-0 ... G Mosse
3 (3) 136-4 ELSHAMMS 26 (G) (H al-Maktoum) A Stewart (GB) 9-0 ... R Hills
4 (8) 1-44 MAJOUNE 21 (D,S) (C Ankoy) J Petal 9-0 ... F Spanu
5 (14) 01153-5 PLAISIR DES YEUX 11 (G,S) (M Debausscher) P Demercastel 9-0 ... T Gillet
6 (6) 211-12 MISS BERBERE 21 (CD,S) (Ecurie Seutet) D Smaga 9-0 ... D Boeuf
7 (4) 1- LA NUIT ROSE 209 (S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 9-0 ... L Dettori
8 (2) 1-1 PHARATTA 16 (CD,G,S) (D Hinojosa) C Lallon-Paraz 9-0 ... S Guillot
9 (12) 23111-1 KINCARA PALACE 8 (F,S) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-0 ... J A Heffernan
10 (9) 21144-4 KHUMBA MELA 26 (BF,G) (Mme P de Moussac) A Fabre 9-0 ... A Junk
11 (15) 3312- INSIGHT 201 (G) (Narchos Family) J E Hammond 9-0 ... C Asmussen
12 (10) 1230-1 CORTONA 31 (G,S) (G Oldham) Mme C Head 9-0 ... O Doleuze
13 (1) 15233-6 DESERT DRAMA 31 (G) (R Strauss) R Collet 9-0 ... K Darley
14 (7) 1112-15 SOEUR TI 14 (D,G,S) (Mme M Vidal) R Collet 9-0 ... J Reid
15 (5) 3-41 ASTORG 11 (D,S) (D Wildenstein) A Fabre 9-0 ... O Peslier

BETTING: 11-4 Zalaiyka, 11-2 Astorg, 6-1 Miss Berbere, 7-1 Cyrillic, 8-1 Insight, 12-1 Pharatta, 14-1 Elshamms, La Nuit Rose, Kincara Palace, 16-1 others.

3.20 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULAINS
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £101,010: 1m) (13 runners)

1 (5) 1011-2 LA-FAAH 22 (BF,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills (GB) 9-2 ... R Hills
2 (2) 61120-3 MUHTATHIR 15 (BF,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden (GB) 9-2 ... W Ryan
3 (8) 10121-1 IPPON 31 (S) (R Bousquet) J C Rouget 9-2 ... J R Dubosc
4 (9) 1- ALTIBR 195 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 9-2 ... L Dettori
5 (13) 1- ZAYA 198 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 9-2 ... C Asmussen
6 (6) 1-11 WITH THE FLOW 21 (CD,G,S) (M Jenney) Mme C Head 9-2 ... O Doleuze
7 (3) 2211-3 PINMIX 21 (D,G,S) (J Lagardere) A Fabre 9-2 ... A Junk
8 (1) 1254-1 DESERT PRINCE 35 (F,S) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder (GB) 9-2 ... S Guillot
9 (11) 2153-1 VICTORY NOTE 22 (F,S) (Mrs J Magnier & R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam (GB) 9-2 J Reid
10 (12) 32122-6 CHARGE D'AFFAIRES 21 (G) (Marquesa de Moratalla) A De Royer-Dupre 9-2 G Mosse
11 (4) 15311-3 MERLIN'S RING 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs R Plummer & Partners) I Balding (GB) 9-2 K Darley
12 (10) 23013-4 NO LIES 21 (D,S) (R Strauss) R Collet 9-2 ... D Boeuf
13 (7) 1-2 LOUDEAC 21 (S) (D Wildenstein) A Fabre 9-2 ... O Peslier

BETTING: 5-2 With The Flow, 5-1 Loudeac, 11-2 Charge D'Affaires, 13-2 Desert Prince, 10-1 Ippon, 12-1 Altibr, Pinmix, 14-1 others.

3.50 PRIX LUPIN (Group I: 3-Y-O: £40,404: 1m 2f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 (4) 433-6 DAYMARTI 35 (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer-Dupre 9-2 ... G Mosse
2 (5) 112- MUDEER 197 (F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 9-2 ... L Dettori
3 (1) 14-1 CROCO ROUGE 21 (CD,S) (W Said) P Bary 9-2 ... S Guillot
4 (2) 6 SMARTLY TAX 27 (Wertheimer Brothers) Mme C Head 9-2 ... N Guesdon
5 (3) 121-1 SPECIAL QUEST 27 (C,D,G,S) (Wertheimer Brothers) Mme C Head 9-2 ... O Doleuze

BETTING: 6-4 Mudeer, 7-4 Croco Rouge, 5-2 Special Quest, 33-1 Daymarti, Smartly Tax.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.15 Irsal. 2.45 Sir Dante. 3.15 Dan De Man. 3.45 Nova Champ. 4.15 Stormyfairweather. 4.45 Bitofamixup. 5.15 Kiltulaa Lad. 5.45 Lord Of The Flies.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.15 HOLLY GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,548: 2m) (17 runners)

1 126 IRSAL 174 (D,G) M Pipe 11-5 ... A P McCoy
2 1200 MINISTERIAL MODEL 70 (D,S) Miss H Knight 11-0 ... G Bradley
3 00 BANDORE 50 M Blanchard 10-12 ... D Gallagher
4 CHINGACHGOOK 72F H Webb 10-12 ... D J Moffatt
5 DRIFT 18F D Carroll 10-12 ... R Johnson
6 GOLD CLIPPER 9F M Ryan 10-12 ... J Ryan
7 F HERE'S TO HOWIE 44 M R Bosley 10-12 ... J R Kavanagh
8 JAZA 9F N Graham 10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald
9 443 MERCILESS COP 19F (B) Mrs M Jones 10-12 ... C Llewellyn
10 MUKDAR 315F K Bailey 10-12 ... S McNeill
11 43 PARDAN 15 B Palling 10-12 ... W Marston
12 FP00 SHADED 5 P Rodford 10-12 ... S Burrough
13 55 SIBOR STAR 31 D Burchell 10-12 ... D J Burchell
14 25 THE ROUNDSILLS 17 M Mullineaux 10-12 ... S Wynne
15 34 WHIRLAWHILE 193 Miss V Williams 10-12 ... N Williamson
16 0 KILMEENA LADY 42 J Fox 10-7 ... T J Murphy
17 FP LEADING NOTE 42 Miss H Knight 10-7 ... J Culloty

7-2 Merciless Cop, 5-1 Irsal, Ministerial Model, 6-1 Mukdar, 7-1 Whirlawhile, 8-1 The Roundsills, 16-1 Gold Clipper, Jaza, 20-1 others.

2.45 WEATHER COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL NOVICES CHASE
(£3,407: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1 2215 SIR DANTE 38 (D,F,G) R Rowe 7-12-0 ... M A Fitzgerald
2 -114 WILDE MUSIC 23 (F,S) C Brooks 8-12-0 ... G Bradley
3 3U31 BOLD STATEMENT 15 (F,G,S) T Forster 6-11-7 ... R Thornton
4 21F2 HERBERT LODGE 173 (BF,D,F,G,S) K Bailey 9-11-7 ... N Williamson
5 3433 ADMIRAL'S GUEST 5 W Clay 6-11-0 ... G Tormey
6 3U50 AHBEJAYBUS 92 (B) Miss L Siddall 9-11-0 ... C Maude
7 0U62 ALTHREY PILOT 14 R Peacock 7-11-0 ... S McNeill
8 421R BARHALE BOY 54 (S) T Casey 6-11-0 ... T J Murphy
9 U0-3 BOSSYMOSS 165 (D,F) A Streeter 9-11-0 ... T Eley
10 1/F3 INTO THE SWING 168 (BF,S) Mrs M Jones 9-11-0 ... C Llewellyn
11 -000 LUDO'S ORCHESTRA 77 M Campion 7-11-0 ... P Holley
12 23U3 PANGERAN 7 H Haynes 6-11-0 ... A P McCoy
13 2530 PERCY BRAITHWAITE 149 (F) Miss P Whittle 6-11-0 ... J Culloty
14 5103 SILVER STANDARD 17 (D,F,G,S) T Forster 8-11-0 ... S Wynne
15 3364 ZAITOON 64 (F,G) D Nicholson 7-11-0 ... R Johnson
16 2165 ANNA SOLEIL 46 (D,F,S) D Sherwood 5-10-7 ... M Richards

7-2 Herbert Lodge, 5-1 Sir Dante, 7-1 Bold Statement, 8-1 Wilde Music, Into The Swing, 12-1 Barhale Boy, Silver Standard, Zaitoon, Anna Soleil, 14-1 others.

3.15 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,723: 2m) (15)

1 11-0 EMBANKMENT 330 (D,F,S) N Henderson 8-11-12 ... T Hagger (7)
2 0-44 ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE 145 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-10 ... A P McCoy
3 5-00 KING'S CROSS 8 (CD,G,S) A J Wilson 9-10-11 ... Michael Brennan
4 1225 DAN DE MAN 49 (D,G) Miss L Siddall 7-10-11 ... M A Fitzgerald
5 45-0 CLASSIC EXHIBIT 7 (CD,F,G) A Streeter 9-10-8 ... N Williamson
6 4F0P WEEHEBY 82 (D,G) I Williams 9-10-8 ... R Johnson
7 3532 POLY AMANSHAA 26 (D,G) M Banks 6-10-8 ... M Richards
8 4303 HURRICANE JANE 46 M J Roberts 6-10-6 ... P Henley (3)
9 3530 PAIR OF JACKS 161 (D,F,G) P Hobbs 8-10-6 ... G Tormey
10 220- BATH KNIGHT 375 G L Moore 5-10-0 ... J Goldstein (5)
11 4000 DINKY DORA 54 J K Cresswell 5-10-0 ... R Farrant
12 26-4 KETCHICAN 15 S Knight 6-10-0 ... D Salter (3)
13 0452 WESTCOAST 17 (B) M Tate 7-10-0 ... C Llewellyn
14 2-4P CELESTIAL FIRE 35 (F) O O'Neill 6-10-0 ... V Slattery
15 0F0P COMMANCHE CUP 18 A James 5-10-0 ... W Marston

7-2 Ultimate Smoothie, 6-1 Dan de Man, Poly Amanshaa, 7-1 Hurricane Jane, 8-1 Embankment, 10-1 King's Cross, Pair Of Jacks, 14-1 others.

3.45 LITTLE MALVERN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,003: 2m 7f 110yd) (14)

1 2-22 HERBERT BUCHANAN 385 (BF,F,G) P Nicholls 8-11-13 ... R Thornton
2 15-4 NOVA CHAMP 45 (G) Mrs S Smith 10-11-2 ... X Aizpuru
3 P303 OLIVER'S SECRET 21 (D,G) M Pipe 8-11-2 ... G Supple
4 511P SAMMORELLO 15 (BF,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12 ... J Goldstein
5 50PF GEMMA'S WAGER 67 (G) M Campion 8-10-9 ... T Dascombe
6 2521 KARENASTINO 14 (S) Mrs S Smith 7-10-6 ... D Elsworth (7)
7 6442 COURT MASTER 16 (S) R Buckler 10-10-4 ... Sophie Mitchell
8 2404 NICKLE JOE 45 (B,D,F,G,S) M Tate 12-10-3 ... Guy Lewis
9 4434 HAWKFIELD 11 (S) P Hobbs 9-10-2 ... P Henley
10 02P3 NATIVE VENTURE 10 (B,G,S) T Casey 10-10-1 ... Michael Brennan
11 PP20 NORMAN'S CONVINCED 26 (B,G) S Knight 8-10-0 ... D Salter
12 -533 THE HERBIVORE 26 M J Roberts 9-10-0 ... L Aspell
13 3PPP WEAVER SQUARE 75 (B) P Eccles 9-10-0 ... M Dunne
14 -0F0 GRACE CARD 7 (B,G,S) B Cambidge 12-10-0 ... R Massey

5-1 Karenastino, 6-1 Sammorello, 7-1 Nova Champ, 8-1 Herbert Buchanan, Oliver's Secret, Hawkfield, Native Venture, The Herbivore, 10-1 others.

Blinkered first time

BEVERLEY: 2.20 Bin Faa. HEXHAM: 3.00 Balcony Boy. LINGFIELD PARK: 2.40 Imshishway. WORCESTER: 2.15 Merciless Cop. 3.45 Weaver Square 4.45 Stardante

4.15 MARTIN PARROTT'S FORTHCOMING MATRIMONIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,132: 3m) (9)

1 F300 COUCHANT 53 (B,C,D,F,G) M Pipe 7-11-10 ... A P McCoy
2 1RRR WISLEY WONDER 21 (B,D,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-6 ... C Llewellyn
3 -10P STORMYFAIRWEATHER 23 (F,S) N Henderson 6-11-4 ... M A Fitzgerald
4 010P CHABROL 36 (F,S) John Berry 5-10-9 ... R Johnson
5 1141 GALATASORI JANE 3 (D,F,G) P Nicholls 8-10-8 (7ex) ... L Cummins (5)
6 4404 BALANAK 16 (B,G,S) D Gandolfo 7-10-7 ... G Bradley
7 1434 FIVE FLAGS 45 (BF,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-0 ... D Elsworth (7)
8 -321 COURT CIRCULAR 42 (V,D,F,S) W Clay 9-10-0 ... G Tormey
9 0P-1 QUEEN'S AWARD 16 (D,G,S) R Buckler 9-10-0 ... B Powell

4-1 Galatasori Jane, 5-1 Stormyfairweather, 6-1 Couchant, Chabrol, 7-1 Queen's Award, 8-1 Wisley Wonder, Five Flags, Court Circular, 10-1 Balanak.

4.45 SUCKLEY NOVICES CHASE
(£3,566: 2m 7f 110yd) (17)

1 -122 BITOFAMIXUP 21 (F,G,S) M J Roberts 7-12-0 ... M A Fitzgerald
2 51F0 STANMORE 49 (G,S) C Brooks 5-12-0 ... G Bradley
3 35F1 MR MAGNETIC 26 (S) T Forster 7-11-8 ... S Wynne
4 6/U6 BUCKMAN 67 J O'Neill 8-11-2 ... S Curran
5 0P00 CONNEL'S CROFT 52 T Kaddy 6-11-2 ... J Goldstein (5)
6 P34P DUNLIR 68 (F) P Rodford 8-11-2 ... S Burrough
7 0P0 MAKHPIYA PATAHN 26 J Mullins 6-11-2 ... A Bates (3)
8 /F4U MOORLAND HIGHFLYER 14 (BF,S) A Hobbs 7-11-2 ... T J Murphy
9 0054 MR CHRISTIE 7 (G,S) Miss L Siddall 6-11-2 ... C Maude
10 4652 PRUSSIA 21 (F) W Clay 7-11-2 ... G Tormey
11 65PP RATHKEAL 45 M Heaton-Ellis 7-11-2 ... B Powell
12 -03P RUPERT BLUES 43 (F) J King 6-11-2 ... M Richards
13 -FF0 STARDANTE 65 (B) R Lee 6-11-2 ... R Johnson
14 4302 SUPER RITCHART 15 (D,G,S) B Palling 10-11-2 ... W Marston
15 6-F2 THE CAMPDONIAN 15 O O'Neill 7-11-2 ... V Slattery
16 F-3P TREASURE AGAIN 70 (D,G,S) Mrs M Jones 9-11-2 ... C Llewellyn
17 0504 LADY CLARINA 17 (G) S Brookshaw 8-10-11 ... Mr P Costello (7)

15-8 Bitofamixup, 11-2 Mr Magnetic, 8-1 Stanmore, Treasure Again, 10-1 Mr Christie, 12-1 Prussia, Rupert Blues, Super Ritchart, 16-1 others.

5.15 SEE YOU AGAIN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £1,560: 2m) (22)

1 501 HOH INVADER 242 (D,S) C Mann 6-11-11 ... Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
2 1 MEESON MAJIC 14 (S) D Eddy 5-11-11 ... Mr L Temple (7)
3 1 DRAGON LORD 80 (D,G) Lady Herries 4-11-6 ... Mr S Durack (3)
4 0 CAMDEN FELLOW 91 P Eccles 5-11-4 ... M Dunne (5)
5 KILTULAA LAD P Hobbs 5-11-4 ... Mr R Widger (7)
6 LARKUS AURELIUS O Sherwood 5-11-4 ... Mr G Baines (7)
7 0 LORD EDGAR 87 Mrs M Jones 6-11-4 ... D Carey (7)
8 322 ROCKCLIFFE GOSSIP 42 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4 ... J Goldstein (5)
9 CANDY COPPER Miss P Whittle 5-10-13 ... Mr P Cosgrave (7)
10 FAMILIE FOOTSTEPS T Etherington 4-10-13 ... L Cummins (5)
11 GAYE GORDON T Forster 5-10-13 ... J Mogford (7)
12 GENTLE RIVAGE N Twiston-Davies 4-10-13 ... L Suthern (7)
13 4 KAILAN SCAMP 166 J Parkes 5-10-13 ... DOUBTFUL
14 30 MAJOR TOM 70 T Tate 4-10-13 ... Michael Brennan
15 NAME YOUR GAME M Heaton-Ellis 4-10-13 ... P Henley (3)
16 F PEARLY LOCH 38 A Hobbs 6-10-13 ... O Burrows (5)
17 20 SEEF 17 J King 4-10-13 ... T Dascombe
18 SHREWD MAGICIAN K Bridgwater 4-10-13 ... M Griffiths (5)
19 VILLAGE GOSSIP Miss L Siddall 5-10-13 ... T Siddall (7)
20 WENTOBUYABAY J Fox 5-10-13 ... F Kenny (7)
21 0 NEW RELEASE 105 M Pipe 4-10-8 ... G Supple (5)
22 0 PERSROLLA 64 Miss H Knight 4-10-8 ... R Thornton

7-4 Dragon Lord, 5-1 Meeson Majic, 8-1 Hoh Invader, Rockcliffe Gossip, 10-1 Gentle Rivage, 14-1 Larkus Aurelius, Seef, 16-1 others.

5.45 SEE YOU AGAIN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: £1,560: 2m) (22)

1 41 BOSUNS MATE 65 (D,G) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-11 ... J Goldstein (5)
2 10 LORD OF THE FLIES 25 (D,G) Miss H Knight 5-11-11 ... R Thornton
3 3-0 AMOTHEBAMBO 336 H Howe 5-11-4 ... G Shackle (5)
4 402 ARTIC GROUND 26 P R Webber 6-11-4 ... P Henley (3)
5 BESIDE HIMSELF N Lampard 5-11-4 ... C Webb (3)
6 CAMTEX CAPERS Mrs S Smith 6-11-4 ... X Aizpuru (3)
7 305 CHOICE CUT 26 T Caldwell 5-11-4 ... Michael Brennan
8 200 MR JAKE 42 H Haynes 5-11-4 ... Mr S Durack (3)
9 AMBER GLEAM N Henderson 4-10-13 ... L Vickers (7)
10 CALYPSO HEIGHTS J Spearing 6-10-13 ... Miss C Spearing (7)
11 6 ELMSIDE 23 M Pipe 5-10-13 ... G Supple (5)
12 MR TEDDY EDWARDS B Temple 4-10-13 ... T Siddall (7)
13 NOSY PARKER A H Harvey 4-10-13 ... Mr C Rae
14 PAXFORD TROOPER P Nicholls 4-10-13 ... L Cummins (5)
15 P- REPUBLICAN LADY 434P C Drew 6-10-13 ... M Mooney (7)
16 RICHMOND LADY P Hobbs 5-10-13 ... Mr R Widger (7)
17 RISING TALISKER T Forster 5-10-13 ... J Mogford (7)
18 WAGER T Forster 4-10-13 ... L Aspell (3)
19 WITHESWAAY LADY E Wheeler 5-10-13 ... J D'leary (7)
20 MUSTGETON J Mullins 4-10-8 ... A Bates (3)
21 MISS NOVA N Smith 4-10-8 ... D Creech (7)
22 PHAR AND AWAY Countess Goess-Saurau 4-10-8 ... Sophie Mitchell (3)

2-1 Bosuns Mate, 7-2 Lord Of The Flies, 8-1 Artic Ground, 10-1 Amber Gleam, Elmside, 12-1 Rising Talisker, Wager, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 29 winners from 83 runners, 34.9%; M Pipe, 43 from 128, 33.6%; I Williams, 3 from 10, 30.0%; K Bailey, 22 from 87, 25.3%; P Nicholls, 11 from 49, 22.4%; C Mann, 7 from 34, 20.6%; Miss V Williams, 4 from 20, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 52 winners from 175 rides, 29.7%; L Aspell, 4 from 16, 25.0%; T J Murphy, 8 from 43, 18.6%; N Williamson, 20 from 113, 17.7%; C Llewellyn, 22 from 125, 17.6%; R Johnson, 15 from 94, 16.0%; R Massey, 6 from 40, 15.0%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: good (turf course); standard (AW)

1.50 (7f) 1, PROSPECTRESS (Aimee Cook, 5-2 fav); 2, Grand Slam (R Hughes, 7-2); 3, Shaji (R Hills, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Flown South (4th), 15-2 Malkayar (5th), 10 Bomb Alaska (6th), 14 Special Person, 16 Sheer Warning, 33 Daisy Fay, Hever Golf Magic, Zanta. 11 ran. ½l, 1¼l, 1¼l, 1l, hd. Lord Huntingdon at West Ilsley. Tote: £3.80; £1.50, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £8.40. Trio: £5.00. CSF: £10.02.

2.20 (1m 2f, AW) 1, TALLULAH BELLE (J Weaver, 5-4 fav); 2, Peppers (D Sweeney, 7-1); 3, Eileen's Lady (G Carter, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 2 Raspberry Sauce (4th), 10 Fancy Design (5th), 20 Splashed, 33 Miss Vita (6th), Ott The Rails. 8 ran. 1½l, 3½l, 5l, 1¾l, 2½l. N Littmoden at Wolverhampton. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £1.90, £2.30. DF: £10.50. CSF: £9.20. Tricast: £126.23.

2.50 (5f) 1, WESTMINSTER CITY (J Reid, 4-1); 2, Aegean Flame (Martin Dwyer, 10-1); 3, Desert Darling (C Lowther, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Touch Up (5th), 7 Palace Green (6th), 8 Republic (4th), 20 Shabaash, 33 A La Perruche, It's A Possibility. 9 ran. Nk, ¾l, ¾l, nk, 1¼l. C Brittain at Newmarket. Tote: £6.10; £2.30, £2.10, £1.40. DF: £24.40. Trio: £27.30. CSF: £39.34.

3.20 (5f) 1, BRAMBLE BEAR (D Sweeney, 8-1, Richard Evans's nap); 2, The Fugative (R Ffrench, 7-2 fav); 3, Runs In The Family (C Rutter, 12-1); 4, Robo Magic (W Ryan, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Barranak, 10 Friendly Brave, Justinianus, 14 Afaz, Bright Paragon, Hali Tone, 16 Bold Frontier, Mindrace, 20 Calandrella, Flying Harold, Ok John, Tear White (6th), 25 English Lady (5th), Mangus, 50 Distant Dynasty. 19 ran. 2½l, 1¾l, sh hd, nk, nk. M Blanshard at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £9.40; £2.10, £1.40, £3.30, £2.50. DF: £15.00. Trio: £124.70. CSF: £34.13. Tricast: £345.13.

3.50 (1m, AW) 1, ZIMIRI (S Sanders, 33-1); 2, Sweet Wilhelmina (L Dettori, 9-4 fav); 3, Salty Jack (C Rutter, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Philistar (4th), 13-2 La Modiste, 8 Artemeras, China Red (5th), Mr Nevermind, 12 Puzzlement, 14 Digpast, Hever Golf Glory (6th), Space Race. 12 ran. ¾l, 3½l, hd, 1¾l, 1½l. J Toller at Newmarket. Tote: £53.70; £6.50, £1.40, £2.50. DF: £103.10. Trio: £1,346.80. CSF: £109.16. Tricast: £741.03.

4.20 (7f 140yd) 1, PEARTREE HOUSE (J Reid, 12-1); 2, King Slayer (J Stack, 7-2 jt-fav); 3, Silca Blanka (J Weaver, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 jt-fav Arpeggio, Chewit, 13-2 Glen Parker (5th), 15-2 Kayvee (4th), Night Flyer (6th), 10 Blakeset, 33 Myrmidon. 10 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l, hd, 1½l, 2l. W Muir at Lambourn. Tote: £13.80; £2.50, £1.50, £6.50. DF: £38.40. Trio: £361.60. CSF: £53.52.

4.50 (7f) 1, SELFISH (W Ryan, 10-11 fav); 2, Highly Pleased (G Carter, 16-1); 3, Madmun (R Hills, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 7 Night Spirit, 14 Maazoom, 20 Moon At Night, 25 Sunstreak (4th), 33 Ela-Andrutta (5th), Little Em, Rhein Lady, Taciuya (6th). 11 ran. 6l, 1¾l, nk, ¾l, 1½l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £4.30, £1.50. DF: £15.00. Trio: £13.30. CSF: £17.49.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £25,730.25 carried forward to Lingfield Park today). Placepot: £39.80. Quadpot: £34.00.

Nottingham

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.00 (6f 15yd) 1, DOUBLE MARCH (G Faulkner, 14-1); 2, Elegant Dance (A Eddery, 9-1); 3, Loganlea (P Shea, 16-1); 4, Broadway Melody (N Callan, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 2 fav Foist (5th), 8 River Ensign, 13-2 Kram (6th), 7 Batsman, 10 Royal Cascade, 16 Rambold, Sand Hawk, 20 Inflation, 26 Macgillycuddy, 33 Anetta, Nellie North, Newhargen. 16 ran. ¾l, 1l, 2½l, ¾l, ½l. K Ivory at Radlett. Tote: £17.20; £3.00, £2.30, £4.80, £14.90. DF: £124.50. CSF: £128.75. Tricast: £1,960.87. Trio: £327.10.

2.30 (6f 15yd) 1, CORONET (M Roberts, 3-1); 2, Tattinger (D Harrison, 4-1); 3, Ryafield (W R Swinburn, 11-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Flak Jacket, 8 Jasmine (5th), 11 Colours To Gold, 12 Positive Air, The Woodcock (4th), 16 Sara Moon Classic (6th), 33 Mi'lud, Prince Of Salsa, Seven, Stravsea, 40 Donna Grazia, Hamerkop. 15 ran. 1½l, 1l, hd, 2l, ½l. A Stewart at Newmarket. Tote: £5.80; £2.60, £3.00, £1.00. DF: £11.60. Trio: £9.20. CSF: £16.54.

3.00 (5f 13yd) 1, ANGIE BABY (S Maloney, 3-1); 2, Hasty Words (M Hills, 9-4 fav); 3, Lucy Marietta (T Quinn, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Lively Lady (4th), 7 Risky Valentine, 8 Enthasingh (5th), 9 Snap Cracker (6th), 20 Windstorm, 33 Starvine. 9 ran. 1½l, 2l, 1¾l, nk, 1¾l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £4.20; £1.60, £1.10, £4.80. DF: £5.90. Trio: £46.70. CSF: £9.91.

3.30 (1m 54yd) 1, BRYONY BRIND (D Harrison, 25-1); 2, Volontiers (Pat Eddery, 5-2); 3, Porto Foricos (K Fallon, 4-5 fav). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Palais (5th), 10 Shape Shifter (4th), 16 My Career (6th), 20 Toa Dancer, 66 Alston, Cromer Pier, Lanna, Lucky Me, 100 Royal Parade. 12 ran. ½l, ¾l, ½l, 3½l, 6l. J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Tote: £38.30; £6.20, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £45.70. Trio: £9.00. CSF: £93.93.

4.00 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, ST ENODOC (Pat Eddery, 11-4 fav); 2, Some Might Say (M Roberts, 9-2); 3, Legend Of Love (N Day, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 King's Hussar (4th), Northern Lass (5th), 8 Asinbox (6th), 12 Risky Girl, Semi Circle, 14 Dancing Grey, 16 On The Mal, 25 Boreas Hill, 33 Eslopped. 12 ran. 6l, 2l, 1½l, 2l, ¾l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £9.90. Trio: £19.40. CSF: £15.17. Tricast: £89.25.

4.30 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, GIFT TOKEN (K Fallon, 6-5 fav); 2, Northern Sun (T Quinn, 11-2); 3, Lucky Double (Dane O'Neill, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Bobbydazzle (6th), 8 Polar Champ (5th), 12 Madame Chinnery (4th). 6 ran. Hd, 3½l, 1½l, sh hd, 1¼l. D Chappell at Blewbury. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £3.30. DF: £11.40. CSF: £7.93.

5.00 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, REAR WINDOW (T Quinn, 9-2, Thunderer's nap); 2, Mister Mummelly (N Day, 16-1); 3, Hawksbill Henry (D Harrison, 12-1); 4, Haydn James (W R Swinburn, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Brave Envoy, 11-2 Vanadium Ore (6th), 8 Missile Toe (5th), 10 Mazilla, Naval Games, 12 Marad, 16 Mr Montague, Reggie Buck, *Top Shelf*, 20 Ist Izzy, 25 Mashkorah, 33 Classic Dame. 16 ran. 1l, 1½l, ½l, 1¾l, 1½l. G McCourt at Wantage. Tote: £4.10; £1.10, £5.70, £3.50, £1.70. DF: £46.40. CSF: £82.51. Tricast: £807.57. Trio: £305.00.

Placepot: £122.20. Quadpot: £3.40.

Carlisle

Going: good to soft

2.10 (5f) 1, Springs Noblequest (L Charnock, 11-10 fav); 2, Pal The Fiddler (10-1); 3, Vosburgh (16-1). 9 ran. NR: Penny Moor. 5l, 3½l. T Easterby. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.60, £3.30. DF: £8.70. Trio: £46.60. CSF: £13.20.

2.40 (6f 206yd) 1, Monica's Choice (A Culhane, 3-1 fav); 2, Dancing Lawyer (4-1); 3, Winter Scout (6-1). 11 ran. 2l, 1½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.10; £2.40, £2.70, £2.90. DF: £6.20. Trio: £27.00. CSF: £13.09.

3.10 (1m 1f 61yd) 1, Superpride (A Culhane, 16-1); 2, Proteras Bay (25-1); 3, Advance East (6-1); 4, Bowcliffe (7-1). Gymcrak Premiere 5-2 fav. 16 ran. Hd, 3l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £21.00; £4.20, £7.20, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £420.30. CSF: £348.71. Tricast: £2,439.67. Trio: £371.70.

3.40 (7f 214yd) 1, Ribble Assembly (J Carroll, 20-1); 2, Technician (11-1); 3, Donna's Double (50-1); 4, Beylham (8-1). Miss All Alone 5-1 fav. 18 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. R Fahey. Tote: £19.40; £5.60, £1.70, £11.60, £3.00. DF: £184.30. Trio: not won (pool of £442.33 carried forward to Lingfield 3.10 tomorrow). CSF: £198.73. Tricast: £9,752.80.

4.10 (5f) 1, Pride Of Brixton (Dean McKeown, 12-1); 2, Charlies Bride (7-2 fav); 3, Gold Edge (5-1). 10 ran. Nk, 3½l. C Thornton. Tote: £10.90; £3.30, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £105.50. CSF: £51.90. Trio: £178.70.

4.40 (5f 207yd) 1, Unshaken (P Robinson, 4-1 fav); 2, Bella's Legacy (7-1); 3, Mister Westsound (25-1); 4, Mustang (5-1). 16 ran. NR: Ballantrae Boy, Henry The Hawk. 4l, hd. E Alston. Tote: £4.80; £1.30, £2.40, £4.30, £1.60. DF: £16.60. Trio: £76.80. CSF: £25.62. Tricast: £579.47.

Placepot: £138.80. Quadpot: £35.90.

Carberry and Ogden split

ROBERT OGDEN, last season's champion jumps owner, yesterday announced the end of his partnership with jockey Paul Carberry. The split, arrived at "by mutual agreement", comes after a three-year association during which the pair have teamed up to win the Tote Gold Trophy, Great Yorkshire Chase and several other big prizes. Carberry, out for the rest of the season after breaking a bone in his leg in a fall at Wetherby, will ride as a freelance.

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CHANGING TIMES

Pull your socks up, HQ tells Islington

Alexandra Frean on Labour losses in the London borough that was Tony Blair's home

RICHARD POHLE



Keeping up with the recounts in Islington, where Labour lost 13 seats and only held on thanks to the mayor's casting vote. Labour and the Liberal Democrats each won 26 seats

LABOUR suffered an embarrassing setback in Islington, the borough which was Tony Blair's London home until the general election, when its huge majority was demolished by the Liberal Democrats.

After a fourth recount in one ward, conducted in a tense atmosphere yesterday afternoon, Labour emerged with 26 seats on the council — 13 fewer than at the last council elections in 1994. The Liberal Democrats, who won 12 seats in 1994, made a huge advance and also took 26 seats.

Although Labour recorded its worst performance since 1968 in the borough, it retained overall control of the council because of the casting vote of the Labour mayor.

The Liberal Democrats also inflicted a heavy defeat on Labour in Liverpool, completing their long march to power in the city: the council there was previously under no overall control. The Liberal Democrats gained ten seats, seizing former Labour strongholds. They now have 52 councillors, compared with 39 for Labour.

Labour's national headquarters issued a stark warning to the party's councillors in Islington. "It will not be business as usual for them," a Labour source said. "We will be keeping an eagle eye on everything they do. If they don't pull their socks up we will come down on them very hard indeed. We are determined never to see a repeat of this result. We are not prepared to tolerate authorities which have failed voters."

Despite its reputation for extremism and incompetence, the council was for ten years until 1992 led by Margaret Hodge, now a high-flying Blairite MP tipped for ministerial office. Other Blairite MPs who previously served on Islington council include Stephen Twigg and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

On Thursday, the council's deputy leader, Phil Kelly, and the chairman of the finance committee, Phil Convery, were among those who lost their seats in the rout. The outcome of the election hinged on the result of two seats in Sussex ward: Labour held one and took another from the Liberal Democrats by three votes.

After votes had been counted five times at the insistence of the Liberal Democrats, a chastened Derek Sawyer Labour leader of the council, said: "We are not ignoring the message from the locals."

Mr Sawyer said that although the arrival of the Labour Government had freed up more resources for Islington, the electorate was still judging councillors on their previous performance. Over 18 years Islington had been deprived of resources by successive Tory governments, making it impossible to provide adequate services, and in particular to maintain council housing at acceptable standards, he said.

The Liberal Democrats were the sole beneficiaries of the Labour collapse. Baroness Ludford, a Liberal Democrat councillor, said that voters in Islington were fed up with being taken from granted by Labour. "This has been one of Labour's rotten boroughs. They have controlled it for all but five months of the past 27 years. They have become shambolic and arrogant and have neglected local services. The people of Islington are now saying they want real change," she said.

For Labour the result ends an era in which the quality of services has declined, and which has seen internal party strife. The borough has London's highest council tax — £912 for the average band D payer, poor performance in education, and appalling council housing conditions. There was a scandal over paedophiles working in children's homes.

The council has built up debt worth £5,000 for every man, woman and child in the borough and has had to write off £24 million of rent arrears.

Despite the gentrification of parts of Islington in recent years, most of Islington is predominantly working class: 48 per cent of its population of 175,000 live in council housing and until recently the borough featured regularly in the Department of the Environment's poverty index.

Alan Clinton, former leader of the council where he has been a member for 16 years, yesterday blamed tactical voting for Labour's losses, conceding, however, that much of the electorate had become disillusioned with his party. "We held our traditional vote among Labour supporters but a lot of traditional Conservative supporters voted Liberal Democrat."

In and around Upper Street in Islington yesterday, voters were not surprised at Labour's demise. Emerging from Granita's — said to be the restaurant where Mr Blair clinched the party leadership in a deal with Gordon Brown — Maggie Hammond, a writer and mother of three, said she had voted Liberal Democrat for the first time in her life. Usually she voted Labour.

"I think people are sick of the Labour council's record in education," she said. "The schools are at the bottom of the leagues and it's a scandal. This result will show them that the kind of left-wing policies they have been running have not been popular."

Huw Williams, 39, a teacher who voted Labour at the general election, said he had voted for the Greens on Thursday. "There's a lot of alienation with the Labour administration in Islington among my friends," he said. "The council is unable even to clear the rubbish from Upper Street and the performance of the schools is appalling. I live in council housing and they seem unable to do any repairs."

The Liberal Democrat victory in Liverpool gives the party overall control of Liverpool City Council for the first time. The Conservatives also suffered from the Liberal Democrat surge, losing the only two seats they held, leaving the city without a Tory presence for the first time.

The battle had centred on council tax rates — with Liverpool once again setting the highest council tax in the country — and the council's Labour-influenced decision to tender for the city's refuse collection. Liverpool Labour's reputation is also still suffering from the tribulations of the 1980s when it was controlled by the now-expelled Militants.

CHANGING HANDS

- ☐ Conservatives gained Runnymede and Tunbridge Wells from no overall control (NOC).
- ☐ Conservatives lost Bromley to NOC.
- ☐ Labour gained Hastings from Liberal Democrats and Brent, Harrow, Lambeth and Waltham Forest from NOC.
- ☐ Labour lost Cambridge, Hillingdon and Islington to NOC.
- ☐ Liberal Democrats gained Liverpool from NOC.
- ☐ Liberal Democrats lost Colchester, Craven, Isle of Wight and Kingston-upon-Thames, Rochford, West Lindsey and Woking to NOC.

Blair hails significant victory in leafy Harrow

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER



Winston Churchill: most famous old Harrovian

THE leafy suburb of Harrow was last night coming to terms with its new masters after Labour secured control of the borough for the first time.

By the narrowest of margins and after several nail-biting recounts, the local authority was seized by the party in an historic victory. Although Labour was the largest group in the early 1970s, the Tories have traditionally held the North London seat until they lost overall control in 1994.

The result comes after Labour won both the Parliamentary seats in Harrow from the Tories at the general election.

The victory was secured only after three recounts in the Harrow-on-the-Hill ward, which was finally won by the Labour candidate, Hugh Stanley Davies, by just five votes. Labour now has 32 seats — up from 16 — to the Tories' 20, up four from 16. The Liberal Democrats were the big losers, seeing their seats drop from 28 to just nine.

The borough is best known for its public school, founded in 1572, whose old boys have included seven British prime ministers including Winston Churchill.

The Prime Minister welcomed the Harrow result as "a very significant victory". Mr Blair said: "It shows how much people welcome new Labour when they see it in action at a national and local level. Harrow is now new Labour territory. The lesson is clear: when new Labour is genuinely on offer, people vote for it."

Another former Tory bastion fell in South London when Bromley came under no overall control for the first time in 34 years, after a final recount at Plaistow and Sundridge left Conservatives on just 28 of the 60 seats.

But the Tories were cheered by retaking Tunbridge Wells, their true blue heartland in Kent, which they lost to the Liberal Democrats in 1996 at the nadir of the party's popularity under John Major.

Archie Norman, Tory MP for Tunbridge Wells and a party vice-chairman, said: "I am particularly pleased that so many of the new councillors are young and comparatively new to politics. This reflects that the Conservative Party is changing, attracting new members and looking forward to an extremely bright future."

Apathy the winner in struggle between new and old Labour

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

NEW Labour did well on Thursday, old Labour did badly. As Tony Blair tacitly admitted yesterday, the reinvention of Labour as a "new" party is far from complete. This is reflected in the leadership's desperate attempt to prevent the populist Ken Livingstone being the party's candidate for mayor of London and the consideration of such implausible alternatives as Glenda Jackson and Tony Banks.

Mr Blair was not alone in his doubled-edged response to the results. William Hague and Paddy Ashdown also had grounds for celebration as well as concern. But amid the confusing mosaic of local gains and losses, there are some clear national lessons to worry each of the leaders.

Labour did pretty well for a governing party after 12 months in office. There are no signs yet of the big swings the Tories suffered after each of their election victories. Labour also demonstrated its new strength in middle-class areas by retaining control of Croydon and Enfield and winning Harrow. The party did well where it has projected a "modernised" Blairite image and its local leadership has changed.

By contrast, Labour did badly where it has suffered from allegations of sleaze and incompetence, and has had an "old" Labour image, such as Sheffield, Liverpool, Islington and Hackney — and, on a lesser scale, in Hull and Stoke-on-Trent. In each case, the main beneficiaries have been the Liberal Democrats. There was also a 15.5 per cent swing from Labour to the Lib Dems in the by-election for the European seat of Yorkshire South, which includes the scandal-ridden Doncaster. However, the Lib Dems' success in Lambeth four years ago has forced Labour to change its approach and personnel since then and the party was able to regain overall control there.

The other worry for Labour



is the low turnout in its working-class strongholds, even in parts of London where there was the supposed incentive of the mayoral referendum. In Barking and Dagenham, the turnout was not even a quarter. Such apathy partly explains why Labour's share of the vote was 38 per cent, well below its recent poll ratings.

The Tories had the rare pleasure of celebrating local gains, but William Hague was sensibly cautious. The party's recovery may have started, but, as he said, there is a long way to go. The Tories only reversed just over half their losses four years ago. The party did well where it has a reputation for cutting council tax and shaking up delivery of services, notably Westminster and Wandsworth, and in its "true-blue" heartlands such as Tunbridge Wells and Runnymede. The party succeeded in mobilising its traditional supporters, but has yet to win back most of those it lost a year ago. It failed to regain much ground in most of the London suburbs, even suffering some further loses. The party has still hardly any presence in the big cities of the Midlands and the North.

Paddy Ashdown was, as always, resilient and optimistic — and with some justice. The Lib Dems held onto roughly two thirds of the gains made four years ago. They lost out in some Tory strongholds in the Home Counties, and where Labour did very well in the London suburbs. Its main gains were in "old" Labour cities and inner London boroughs. But the fact that its successes were against Labour, rather than the Tories, may complicate the party's delicate courtship with the Government, though Mr Ashdown is always careful to distinguish between national co-operation and local competition.

The results show why Mr Blair was so determined yesterday to stress the new Labour message of modernisation — not just in changing his own party but also in shaking up local government. Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister, has recently issued a series of consultation papers — ahead of legislation this winter — intended to make local councils more efficient and accountable. In short, ministers recognise that the very low turnout on Thursday was a sign that many people believe their vote does not matter, and that urgent action is needed to show that it does.

PETER RIDDELL

Blue day for Pulp star's mother



Cocker: social justice

THE mother of the left-wing pop star Jarvis Cocker failed in her attempt to become a Tory parish councillor by the narrowest margin. She lost by one vote.

But the threat to Cocker's street credibility continues. Christine Connolly, who campaigned about road safety, said: "I would probably stand again. I enjoyed the new experience, and the excitement of the count."

The Pulp singer's stepfather, Derek, also failed in the elections for Carlton in Lindrick parish council, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and was beaten by the Labour candidate for a seat on Bassetlaw District Council.

Cocker shot to pop chart fame with the single Common People, and famously disrupted Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit Awards. His songs often refer to social injustice. Yesterday he was filming a documentary in South America, and was unaware of the family's election results. Mrs Connolly was originally tied on 466 votes, but was demoted to 465 after a re-count.

At the family's farmhouse in Carlton in Lindrick, Mr Connolly said the results had been a personal setback, but added: "From a standing start, we have done very well and we had two Conservatives elected last night anyway. Labour is still enjoying a honeymoon but the politics will come home to roost sooner or later."

LONDON

BARKING & DAGENHAM: Lab No change
Lab 47, R 3, LD 1.

BARNET: NOC No change
C lose 1, Lab gain 1. New council: C 28, Lab 26, LD 6.

BEXLEY: NOC No change
C gain 9, LD lose 8, Ind lose 1. New council: C 29, Lab 24, LD 6, Vac 3.

BROMLEY: C lose to NOC
C lose 4, LD gain 4. New council: C 28, LD 25, Lab 7.

BRENT: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 15, C lose 13, LD lose 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 43, C 19, LD 4.

CAMDEN: Lab No change
Lab lose 5, C gain 3, LD gain 2. New council: Lab 43, C 10, LD 6.

CROYDON: Lab No change
Lab lose 2, C gain 1, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 38, C 31, LD 1.

EALING: Lab No change
Lab gain 5, C lose 4, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 50, C 15, LD 3, Vac 3.

ENFIELD: Lab No change
Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 43, C 23.

GREENWICH: Lab No change
Lab gain 4, C lose 1, LD lose 1, Soc Dem lose 2. New council: Lab 52, C 8, LD 2.

HACKNEY: NOC No change
Lab gain 5, LD lose 2, C lose 3, Green gain 2, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 29, LD 17, C 12, Green 2.

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM: Lab No change
Lab gain 1, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 36, C 14.

HARINGEY: Lab No change
Lab lose 3, LD gain 3. New council: Lab 54, LD 3, C 2.

HARROW: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 16, C gain 3, LD lose 18, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 32, C 20, LD 9, R 2.

HAVERING: NOC No change
Lab gain 1, C gain 2, LD gain 1, Others lose 4. New council: Lab 29, R 17, C 14, LD 3.

HILLINGDON: Lab lose to NOC
C gain 9, Lab lose 9, LD gain 4, Ind lose 1, Others lose 3. New council: C 34, Lab 31, LD 4.

HOUNSLOW: Lab No change
Lab lose 6, C gain 5, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 44, C 11, LD 4, Others 1.

ISLINGTON: NOC gain from Lab.
Lab lose 9, LD gain 12, Ind lose 2, Con lose 1. New council Lab 26, LD 26, Ind 0, Con 0.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA: C No change
C 39, Lab 15.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES: LD lose to NOC
C gain 4, LD lose 8, Lab gain 4. New council: C 21, LD 19, Lab 10.

LAMBETH: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 19, LD lose 7, C lose 9, Ind lose 3. New council: Lab 41, LD 18, C 5.

LEWISHAM: Lab No change
Lab gain 1, C gain 1, Others lose 2. New council: Lab 61, LD 4, C 2.

MERTON: Lab No change
C gain 2, R lose 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 39, C 12, R 3, LD 3.

NEWHAM: Lab No change
Lab 60.

REDBRIDGE: NOC No change
Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 30, C 23, LD 9.

RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES: LD No change
LD lose 9, C gain 7, Lab gain 2. New council: LD 34, C 14, Lab 4.

SOUTHWARK: Lab No change
Lab lose 1, LD gain 3, C gain 1, Others lose 3. New council: Lab 33, LD 27, C 4.

SUTTON: LD No change
LD lose 1, C gain 1. New council: LD 46, Lab 5, C 5.

TOWER HAMLETS: Lab No change
Lab lose 1, LD gain 2, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 41, LD 9.

WALTHAM FOREST: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 6, C lose 1, LD lose 3, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 30, C 15, LD 12.

WANDSWORTH: C No change
C gain 5, Lab lose 5. New council: C 50, Lab 11.

WESTMINSTER: C No change
C gain 2, Lab lose 2. New council: C 47, Lab 13.

METROPOLITAN

BARNSLEY: Lab No change
Lab 21, Ind 1. Lab 63, Ind 2, C 1.

BIRMINGHAM: Lab No change
Lab 26, C 7, LD 5, Others 1. Lab lose 3, C gain 3, LD lose 1, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 83, C 17, LD 16, Others 1.

BOLTON: Lab No change
Lab 14, C 4, LD 2. Lab lose 1, C gain 2, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 47, C 8, LD 5.

BRADFORD: Lab No change
Lab 17, C 10, LD 3. Lab lose 5, C gain 4, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 65, C 18, LD 7.

BURY: Lab No change
Lab 12, C 3, LD 1. Lab lose 2, C gain 2. New council: Lab 39, C 6, LD 3.

CALDERDALE: Lab No change
Lab 5, C 9, LD 6. Lab lose 6, C gain 5, LD gain 2, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 28, C 13, LD 12, Ind 1.

COVENTRY: Lab No change
Lab 15, C 3, Others 1. Lab lose 2, C gain 1, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 45, C 7, Ind 1, Others 1.

DONCASTER: Lab No change
Lab 12, Ind 4, LD 3, C 2. Lab lose 3, Ind gain 2, LD gain 3, C gain 1, Others lose 3. New council: Lab 47, Ind 7, LD 6, C 3.

DUDLEY: Lab No change
Lab 17, C 3, LD 4. Lab lose 2, C lose 1, LD gain 3. New council: Lab 58, C 7, LD 7.

GATESHEAD: Lab No change
Lab 18, LD 5. Lab 51, LD 15.

KIRKLEES: Lab No change
Lab 10, LD 9, C 4, Green 1. Lab lose 4, LD gain 3, C gain 2, Green gain 1, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 43, LD 20, C 7, Green 2.

KNOWSLEY: Lab No change
Lab 23. Lab gain 1. LD lose 1. New council: Lab 65, LD 1.

LEEDS: Lab No change
Lab 25, LD 3, C 5, Green 1, Lab lose 2, C gain 1, Green gain 1. New council: Lab 80, LD 9, C 9, Green 1.

LIVERPOOL: LD gain from NOC
LD 23, Lab 9, Lib 2. LD gain 10, Lab lose 8, Lib gain 2, Ind lose 1, C lose 2, Others lose 1. New council: LD 52, Lab 39, Lib 4, Ind 1, Others 3.

MANCHESTER: Lab No change
Lab 30, LD 5. Lab 84, LD 15.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: Lab No change
Lab 23, LD 5. Lab 65, LD 13.

NORTH TYNESIDE: Lab No change
Lab 11, C 5, LD 4. Lab lose 2, C gain 1, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 43, C 8, LD 7, Ind 2.

OLDHAM: Lab No change
Lab 12, LD 8, Lab gain 1. LD lose 1. New council: Lab 36, LD 23, Ind 1.

ROCHDALE: Lab No change
Lab 11, LD 7, C 2. Lab 36, LD 18, C 6.

ROTHERHAM: Lab No change
Lab 22, C 1. Lab 65, C 1.

ST HELENS: Lab No change
Lab 13, LD 5, C 1. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, C gain 1. New council: Lab 42, LD 10, C 2.

SALFORD: Lab No change
Lab 20, LD 1. Lab 57, LD 3.

SANDWELL: Lab No change
Lab 20, LD 3, C 1. Lab 60, LD 9, C 2, Ind 1.

SEFTON: NOC No change
Lab 10, LD 8, C 6, LD lose 1, C gain 1. New council: Lab 31, LD 23, C 14, Ind 1.

SHEFFIELD: Lab No change
Lab 13, LD 16. Lab lose 5, LD gain 5. New council: Lab 50, LD 36, C 1.

SOLIHULL: NOC No change
C 8, Lab 7, LD 3. C gain 3, Lab gain 1, LD lose 1, R lose 1, Others lose 2. New council: C 20, Lab 17, LD 11, R 3.

SOUTH TYNESIDE: Lab No change
Lab 18, LD 2, Others 1. Lab lose 1, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 51, LD 6, Others 3.

STOCKPORT: NOC No change
LD 10, Lab 10, R 1, C 1. LD lose 1, C gain 1. New council: LD 30, Lab 27, R 3, C 3.

SUNDERLAND: Lab No change
Lab 24, C 2, LD 1. Lab gain 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 68, C 4, LD 2, Lib 1.

TAMESIDE: Lab No change
Lab 16, LD 1, C 2. Lab lose 2, Ind lose 1. LD gain 1, C gain 2. New council: Lab 49, Ind 4, LD 2, C 2.

TRAFFORD: Lab No change
Lab 12, C 8, LD 1. *Lab gain 1, C* gain 1, LD lose 1, Others lose 1. New council: Lab 36, C 23, LD 4.

WAKEFIELD: Lab No change
Lab 18, C 1, Ind 1. Lab lose 1, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 59, C 2, Vac 1, Ind 1.

WALSALL: NOC No change
Lab 11, C 7, LD 2. Lab gain 4, C *gain 3, LD gain 1, Others lose 8.* New council: Lab 30, C 16, LD 6, Ind 1, Others 7.

WIGAN: Lab No change
Lab 24. Lab gain 1, *LD lose 1.* New council: Lab 70, LD 1, Ind 1.

WIRRAL: Lab No change
Lab 13, C 7, LD 4. Lab 41, C 16, LD 8, Ind 1.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Lab No change
Lab 13, C 6, LD 1. Lab lose 2, C gain 2. New council: Lab 44, C 14, LD 2.

NON-MET

ADUR: LD No change
LD 6, Lab 5, C 2, Ind 1. LD lose 6, Lab gain 4, C gain 2. New council: LD 22, Lab 10, C 5, Ind 2.

AMBER VALLEY: Lab No change
Lab 11, C 3. Lab lose 1, C gain 1. New council: Lab 37, C 6.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS: Lab No change
Lab 7, C 8, Others 1. Lab lose 8, C gain 7, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 23, C 11, Others 4.

BASILDON: Lab No change
Lab 9, LD 2, C 5. Lab lose 2, LD lose 3, C gain 5. New council: Lab 23, LD 13, C 6.

BASINGSTOKE & DEANE: NOC No change
C 9, Lab 5, LD 5, Ind 1. C gain 3, Lab gain 1, LD lose 4. New council: C 25, Lab 15, LD 13, Ind 4.

BASSETLAW: Lab No change
Lab 13, C 3, LD 2. C gain 2, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 35, C 8, Ind 3, LD 3, Others 1.

BEDFORD: NOC No change
Lab 7, LD 6, C 2, Ind 3, LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 22, LD 15, C 9, Ind 7.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE: NOC No change. Lab 7, LD 6, Ind 3, Con 2, LD gain 1, Con lose 1 New council: Lab 22, LD 15, Coin 9, Ind 7.

BRENTWOOD: LD No change
LD 10, C 2, Lab 1, Lib 1. LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: LD 25, C 11, Lab 2, Lib 1.

BROADLAND: NOC No change
C 12, Lab 2, LD 2, Ind 1. C gain 7, Lab lose 1, LD lose 5, Ind lose 1. New council: C 21, Lab 16, LD 8, Ind 4.

BROXBOURNE: C No change
C 13, Lab 1. C gain 5, Lab lose 3, LD lose 2. New council: C 31, Lab 11.

BURNLEY: Lab No change
Lab 11, LD 4, Ind 2, C 1. Lab lose 4, LD gain 1, Ind gain 2, C gain 1. New council: Lab 31, LD 9, Ind 6, C 2.

CAMBRIDGE: Lab lose to NOC
Lab 5, LD 7, C 2. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, C gain 2, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 21, LD 18, C 3.

CANNOCK CHASE: Lab No change
Lab 14, LD 2, Lab lose 1, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 39, LD 9.

CARLISLE: Lab No change
Lab 10, C 6, LD 1, Others 1. Ind lose 1, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 33, C 14, LD 3, Others 1.

CHELTENHAM: LD No change
LD 5, C 6, Others 2. LD lose 4, C gain 6, Lab lose 1, Others lose 1. New council: LD 27, C 9, Vac 1, Others 4.

CHERWELL: NOC No change
Lab 5, C 9, LD 2, Ind 1, Lab lose 2, C gain 2. New council: Lab 24, C 17, LD 7, Ind 4.

CHESTER: NOC No change
Lab 8, LD 5, C 7. Lab lose 2, LD lose 1, C gain 3. New council: Lab 26, LD 17, C 15, Ind 2.

THE TIMES
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new ta
Livin
Hunt begins
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'Fat cats' face new tax under Livingstone

KEN LIVINGSTONE yesterday proposed a swingeing *wealth tax on big London* employers and "fat cat" directors, which he said would be levied at a "special Cedric Brown greedy bastard rate".

The threat of *skyhigh new* taxes under a Livingstone administration, which was immediately condemned by the London business community, revived *memories of* his "Red Ken" reputation when he ran the GLC in the 1980s.

Mr Livingstone, who yesterday formally began his campaign to become the capital's first elected mayor, proposed a local corporation tax to raise millions of pounds from the corporate sector to finance infrastructure improvements.

His leftwing manifesto would also include a shock for businessmen like Mr Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, who was heavily criticised when his annual salary rose from £270,000 to £475,000 in 1994.

Mr Livingstone's controversial performance at a Westminster press conference, which was gleefully exploited by the Tories, confirmed the worst fears of the Labour leadership which is planning to block his candidature. "It's the last thing we need," one senior minister said. "We will *stop Ken.*"

The MP for Brent East signalled that he would lead a long battle in Parliament to obtain greater power for the *London assembly*. He protested that the assembly's budget would be capped, and its ability to switch funds between policy areas would be curtailed, by the Government's proposed legislation to establish to the assembly.

"I would like to see a proper ability to tax the most wealthy parts of London," Mr Livingstone said. "You have great *international corporations* based in the centre of London making profits almost beyond the imagination, and they need to be putting a bit more *into tackling London's problems*. "People who make vast profits out of London should put a bit more in."

'Red Ken' has a new role in sight as the capital's Robin Hood, reports Andrew Pierce

Challenged about which individuals he would target, he said that he would levy a tax at a "special Cedric Brown greedy bastard rate".

London's corporate sector, he said, benefited from public services such as education, police and transport: "I don't think they're paying their fair share.

"*I don't think you want to* tax them so it's painful but a small increase, enough to tackle the problems of the Tube and rebuilding London's *infrastructure. I think they* would be happy to pay."

He proposed a special London corporation tax rate of 10 per cent, which would take *it up to 40 per cent* for businesses in the capital.

Mr Livingstone said that informal consultations with business leaders had confirmed that there would be no objection to them paying out more money to support the Tube network.

His comments were criticised by London First, a campaign group representing 300 businesses in the capital. A spokesman said: "A hike in corporation tax to 40 per cent would damage the captial's economy, jeopardise our appeal to inward investors and threaten Londoners' jobs. Our infrastructure needs additional investment but this is not the way to finance it."

Mr Livingstone, who knows a "stop Ken" campaign is underway because of the prospect of conflict with Downing Street should he become mayor, appealed for Tony Blair to give London Labour Party members an unfettered choice of candidate. But he ruled out standing as an independent or *forming a new party if his* candidature were blocked by party leaders.

"I will support the Labour candidate, whomever it is and *however much I might have* reservations about the way they're selected if it's not me," he said.

The news conference was *organised by Campaign for a* People's London, which seeks to modify the Government's plans so that the Greater London authority has "real *powers*".

Mr Livingstone floated his tax-raising plan with Judith Mayhew, chairman of the policy committee of the Corpo*ration of London*. Ms Mayhew, who met Mr Livingstone at a recent reception, made clear her objections to a new blanket tax on businesses.

"*Wealth creation* in the deprived areas of the capital depends very much on small businesses," she said. "Small businesses cannot sustain yet more taxation."

Big businesses would also be hit hard with a consequent affect on jobs and investment, she added.

ANDRÉ CAMARA



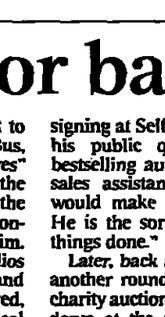
Ken Livingstone yesterday: "People who make vast profits should put more in"

Contenders are ready for the off

KEN LIVINGSTONE, the veteran standard-bearer of the Labour left, is the only officially declared candidate. *The former leader of the* GLC is streets ahead in the polls. But a question mark remains over whether the Labour leadership will let *him run* as an official candidate (Andrew Pierce writes).

The other potential candidates are:

Glenda Jackson, the London Transport Minister and MP for Hamp*stead and* Highgate, drew cautious approving noises from the Labour leadership. Her critics argue she is too dour and inexperienced. But she is planning to rebrand her image by harking back to her career as an Oscar winning actress.



Phillips



Norris



Branson

Tony Banks, the colourful but unpredictable Sports Minister, is keen to stand. A London MP and former stalwart of the GLC under Livingstone, he may be seen as too populist and unpredictable to receive an endorsement from the leadership.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has been resolutely silent on reports that fellow ministers want him to stand to try to stop Livingstone. His status as the only openly gay member of the Cabinet would enhance his standing with Labour Party members who will have a decisive say in the choice of the candidate.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has also faced pressure to stand but told *The Times* last month he was staying in the Cabinet. But suspicion remains that Dobson may yet take up the Labour mantle.

Trevor Phillips, the broadcaster and only black contender, was once seen as the favoured choice because of his close friendship to Peter Mandelson. But his prospects have faded fast as opinion polls have shown his voter recognition levels are almost non-existent.

Lord Archer of *Weston-super-*Mare, the best-selling novelist and former Tory vice chairman, is way ahead of any other rivals for the party's nomination. William Hague will not endorse any of the candidates. The choice will be *made* by one member one vote. Archer, a popular figure with the grassroots, has *assiduously* courted the London constituencies for the last two years.

Steven Norris, the former Tory transport minister, is the most serious threat to Archer. But Norris, who has a new young family, has picked up a string of lucrative directorships since he retired as an MP. He will almost certainly not run unless he is certain the Tories have a strong chance of ending Labour's dominance of London.

Richard Branson, the businessman, is the most popular choice to be mayor in all opinion polls. But he has made clear he will not run because of business commitments. This time.



Lord Archer on top of the Referendum Bus yesterday

First among candidates prepares for battle

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Candidate stood at the huge windows of his luxury penthouse overlooking the Thames at Westminster and scratched his chin *thoughtfully*. The bandwagon was now rolling. The people of London had just voted, albeit on a poor turnout, to have an elected mayor for the first time in the capital's history.

He had been up most of the night watching the results of the referendum, giving interviews to every branch of the British and foreign media. Despite having had just two hours' sleep, he was feeling remarkably fresh. Looking trim in a pink-striped shirt, burgundy jersey and cream slacks, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare did not look his 58 years. His protein-rich diet and four *workouts* a week with a personal trainer were paying off. He had lost 30lb in a year and was keeping it off. Only the faint greying of his closely cropped hair revealed the passing of the years.

It was, he told *The Times* over the top of his rimless spectacles, important for him to keep up his energy levels. "I do feel I am physically up to it," he said. He had been working 19 hours a day for the past year to "listen and learn" from the people of London. "It is very important that whoever is mayor does not spend the first year learning to do the job, but has instead spent the previous two years learning about it," he said.

This was a vital lesson he had learnt from his recent visit to New York to meet Rudolf Giuliani, the Republican mayor known for his punishing schedule. But, unlike Ken Livingstone, former Labour leader of the GLC, he had not formally declared his candidacy. "We have to *slow down a bit*," he said. "The election might not be for two years."

He had, nevertheless, assembled a campaign team of more than 100 young people and had a packed *diary of forthcoming London-based* events. He was also boning up on the capital. Every day he was reading a page of *The London Encyclopaedia*. He was also spending one-day a *month walking around London to* get a feel for the boroughs that he did not know.

Now he had another round of interviews to give. First he went to Waterloo in the Referendum Bus, the open-topped vehicle for the "yes" campaign. As he danced to the hiphop music blaring from the loudspeakers, he felt elated as Londoners hooted their horns at him. *Then to the BBC's Millbank studios* for interviews with Radio 5 Live and *The World at One*. As he arrived, Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor, brushed past him and asked *if he was worried about his rivals*. "There are no rivals," the Candidate joked. "There are only candidates waiting to be beaten."

Despite the frantic round of interviews, *there was still time to* publicise his latest novel, *The Eleventh Commandment*, which had just hit the bookshops. A booksigning at Selfridges went briskly as his public queued to meet the bestselling author. Jorge Darosa, a sales assistant, said: "I think he would make a marvellous mayor. He is the sort of person who gets things done."

Later, back at his penthouse after another round of interviews and a charity auction, the Candidate stared down at the spotlighted Palace of Westminster. He had been a *highflying member of the Commons* but was now on the backbenches of the Lords.

But his gaze crossed over to the South Bank, and he caught sight of *County Hall, the former home of the* GLC. His thoughts returned to the future and he smiled at the prospect of the battle ahead.

Hunt begins for home fit for a mayor – and a cast of hundreds

BY ADAM FRESCO

Wanted: Detached building, must be big enough for 500 and have large debating chamber. Easy access to public transport required. Budget up to £30 million.

ESTATE agents hunting for a home for the Greater London authority may battle to find one in time for the election of the mayor.

The agents Knight Frank have sent 500 letters to property companies and developers across London to find a "suitable building in keeping with the status of the new authority". It must be able to house 25 members of the assembly and 250 staff, and include a debating chamber with room for 250 members of the public.

The agents have told property professionals that they will consider development opportunities, new buildings and "good-quality refurbishment". The accommodation will have to be freehold or have a minimum 15-year lease.

Nick Raynsford, Minister for London, said: "Accommodation is obviously a very important consideration for the new GLA and we have asked Knight Frank to start looking for a building in keeping with the status of the new authority but reflecting its small, streamlined nature. This will be a very open form of governance, so an assembly chamber with good access for the public will be a primary requirement." Knight Frank have given property companies three weeks to send in *details of suitable accommo*dation or a site that can be built on. The firm has to report back to ministers with a shortlist by the end of the summer. There is a chance that the chosen building will *not be ready in time for the* historic opening of the GLA. Richard Haynes, from the agents' public sector department, said yesterday: "The mayor and the GLA may have to have temporary accommo*dation while something* is built for them, it just depends on what is available and what we can find in time.

"I hope we will have a shortlist during the summer and up to two, three or four *options and they will be* analysed."

The agents are concentrating on an area from Westminster to Victoria and Euston, *cutting through* Holborn to Clerkenwell and the City, and going as far east as Docklands. Mr Haynes said that private properties would prob*ably be too small and hotels*, although big enough, might be difficult to convert.

"We have not been given a steer on how much the build*ing can cost but I'm sure the* politicians would like to have something that would have some sort of image or status," Mr Haynes said. "The biggest *problem is going to be finding* something that has or can have a large debating chamber."

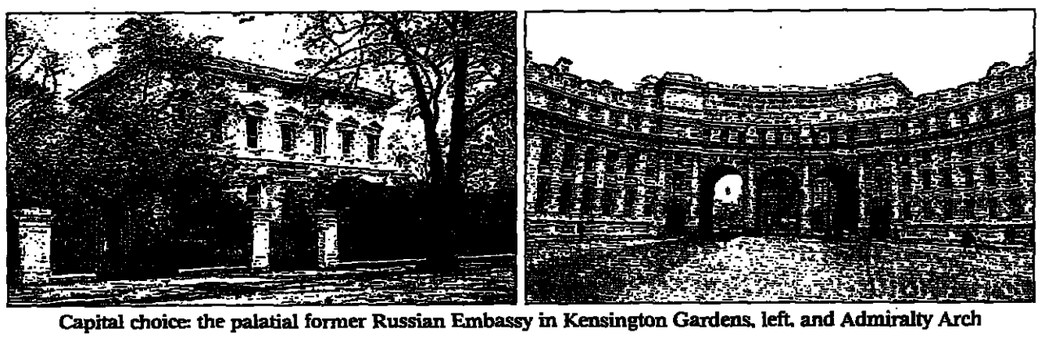
Some possible venues for the GLA include:

☐ New Kings Beam House, Southwark: a modern office building in a prominent position which looks good and has a degree of prestige, but would need a lot of adaptation.

☐ Romney House, Victoria: surplus government office building that is twice the size *needed for GLA. Other com*plications include that it is a leasehold property which is due to expire in about five years time but negotiations *could take place to work that* out.

☐ Former Russian Embassy, Kensington Gardens: now empty but the Crown Estate, *the freeholder, has not said* whether it will be put on sale. Thought to be worth about £20 million, but it may be large enough.

☐ Admiralty Arch: empty but the structure of the building may make it difficult to include a central debating chamber.



Capital choice: the palatial former Russian Embassy in Kensington Gardens, left, and Admiralty Arch

CHORLEY: Lab No change
Lab 9, LD 3, C 5, Ind 1. Lab lose 4, LD gain 1, C gain 2. Ind gain 1. **New council:** Lab 33, LD 7, C 6, Ind 2.

COLCHESTER: LD lose to NOC
LD 8, Lab 5, C 7. LD lose 5. Lab gain 3, C gain 3, R lose 1. **New council:** LD 27, Lab 17, C 15, R 1.

CONGLETON: LD No change
LD 11, Lab 2, C 2. LD lose 2, C gain 2. **New council:** LD 26, Lab 11, C 7, Ind 1.

CRAVEN: LD lose to NOC
LD 3, C 8, Ind 2. *LD lose 5, C gain* 5, Lab lose 1, Ind gain 1. **New council:** LD 13, C 13, Lab 4, Ind 4.

CRAWLEY: Lab No change
Lab 9, C 1, LD 1. Lab lose 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 27, C 3, LD 2.

CREWE & NANTWICH: Lab No change
Lab 10, C 7, LD 2. Lab lose 1, LD gain 1. **New council:** Lab 37, C 15, LD 4, Ind 1.

DAVENTRY: NOC No change
C 7, Lab 4, *LD 2, Ind 1*. C gain 2. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, Ind lose 1. **New council:** C 17, Lab 13, LD 3, Ind 2.

EASTBOURNE: LD No change
LD 6, C 6. LD lose 3, C gain 3. **New council:** LD 18, C 12.

EASTLEIGH: LD No change
LD 11, Lab 1, C 2. LD lose 1, Lab gain 1. **New council:** LD 29, Lab 8, C 7.

ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON: Lab No change
Lab 14, C 1. Lab 36, C 5.

ELMBRIDGE: NOC No change
C 9, R 7, LD 3, Lab 1. C gain 2. Lab lose 2. **New council:** C 23, R 21, LD 8, Lab 7, *Ind 1*.

EPPING FOREST: NOC No change
Lab 5, LD 4, C 6, R 4. Lab lose 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 17, LD 15, C 15, R 9, Ind 3.

EXETER: Lab No change
Lab 6, LD 3, Lib 1, C 2. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 22, LD 8, Lib 3, C 3.

FAREHAM: NOC No change
LD 6, C 7, Lab 1, LD lose 4, C gain 5, Lib lose 1. **New council:** LD 16, C 14, Lab 8, Others 4.

GLOUCESTER: Lab No change
Lab 10, LD 6, C 4. LD lose 3, C gain 3. **New council:** Lab 25, LD 8, C 6.

GOSPORT: NOC No change
Lab 6, C 4, LD 1. Lab gain 2, C gain 4, LD lose 3, *Others lose 3*. **New council:** Lab 10, C 9, LD 3, Others 8.

GREAT YARMOUTH: Lab No change
Lab 11, C 5. Lab lose 1, C gain 2, LD lose 1. **New council:** Lab 36, C 12.

HARLOW: Lab No change
Lab 13, LD 1, C 1. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab *38, LD 3, C 1*.

HARROGATE: LD No change
LD 13, C 6, Lab 1. LD lose 3, C gain 3. **New council:** LD 40, C 14, Lab 4, Ind 1.

HART: NOC No change
LD 5, C 3, Ind 3. C gain 1, Ind lose 1. **New council:** LD 15, C 14, Ind 6.

HASTINGS: Lab LD
Lab 10, LD 2, C 1. Lab gain 3, LD lose 4, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 18, LD 13, C 1.

HAVANT: NOC No change
LD 6, C 6, Lab 3. LD lose 3, C gain 3, Lab gain 1, Others lose 1. **New council:** LD 14, C 14, Lab 8, Ind 3, Others 3.

HERTSMERE: Lab No change
Lab 5, C 7, LD 2. C gain 2, LD lose 2. **New council:** Lab 22, C 11, LD 6.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE: C No change
C 12, LD 5, Ind 1. C gain 1, LD gain 1, Lab lose 2. **New council:** C 34, LD 14, Lab 3, Ind 2.

HYNDBURN: Lab No change
Lab 7, C 10, Lab lose 9, C gain 9. **New council:** Lab 35, C 12.

IPSWICH: Lab No change
Lab 12, C 4. Lab lose 1, C gain 2, LD lose 1. **New council:** Lab 40, C 8.

LINCOLN: Lab No change
Lab 10, C 1. Lab gain 3, C gain 1, Others lose 4. **New council:** Lab 28, Vac 1, C 1, Others 3.

MACCLESFIELD: C No change
C 12, LD 5, Lab 2, R 1. C gain 4, LD lose 2, Lab lose 2. **New council:** C 37, LD 10, Lab 10, R 3.

MAIDSTONE: NOC No change
LD 8, Lab 4, C 4, Ind 2. LD lose 4, Lab gain 2, C gain 2. **New council:** LD 21, Lab 16, C 13, Ind 5.

MOLE VALLEY: NOC No change
LD 8, C 4, Ind 2. LD lose 2, C gain 2. **New council:** LD 16, C 14, Ind 9, Lab 2.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME: Lab No change
Lab 14, LD 3, C 2. LD lose 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 42, LD 9, C 5.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE: Lab No change
Lab 8, C 9, LD 1. C gain 1. LD lose 1. **New council:** Lab 26, C 17, LD 6, Ind 1.

NORWICH: Lab No change
Lab 12, LD 6. Lab lose 2, LD gain 2. **New council:** Lab 35, LD 13.

NUNEATON & BEDWORTH: Lab No change
Lab 13, C 3. Lab lose 1, C gain 1. ***New council:*** *Lab +1, C 4.*

OXFORD: Lab No change
Lab 9, LD 6, Green 2. Lab lose 4, LD *gain 3, Green gain 1*. **New council:** Lab 33, LD 14, Green 4.

PENDLE: LD No change
LD 10, Lab 6, C 1. LD 29, Lab 18, C 3, Ind 1.

PENWITH: NOC No change
LD 5, Ind 2, C 2, Lab 1, Others 1. LD gain 2, C gain 2, Lab lose 2, Others lose 2. **New council:** LD 12, Ind 7, C 7, Lab 6, Others 2.

PRESTON: Lab No change
Lab 8, C 5, LD 5, Ind 1. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, Ind gain 1. **New council:** Lab 30, C 13, LD 13, Ind 1.

PURBECK: NOC No change
LD 1, C 3, Ind 4. LD lose 3, C gain 3. **New council:** LD 8, C 6, Ind 5, Lab 3.

REDDITCH: Lab No change
Lab 8, C 2, LD 1. Lab lose 1, LD *gain 1. New council: Lab 23, C 4*, LD 2.

REIGATE & BANSTEAD: NOC No change
C 7, Lab 5, LD 3, R 2. C gain 3, Lab lose 1, LD lose 2, R gain 1, Ind lose 1. **New council:** C 19, Lab 13, LD 11, R 5, Ind 1.

ROCHFORD: LD lose to NOC
LD 4, Lab 5, C 4, R 1. LD lose 5, Lab gain 1, C gain 4. **New council:** LD 18, Lab 12, C 6, R 3, Ind 1.

ROSSENDALE: Lab No change
Lab 5, C 7, Lab lose 6, C gain 6. **New council:** Lab 25, C 11.

RUGBY: NOC No change
Lab 8, C 3, R 2, LD 2, Ind 2. C gain 1, R lose 1. **New council:** Lab 22, C 12, R 5, LD 5, Ind 4.

RUNNYMEDE: C gain from NOC
C 8, Lab 4, Ind 1, LD 1, R 1. C gain 2, Lab lose 2, Ind lose 1, R gain 1. **New council:** C 23, Lab 12, Ind 5, LD 1, R 1.

RUSHMOOR: NOC No change
C 8, LD 4, Lab 4. C gain 4, LD lose 4. **New council:** C 17, LD 14, Lab 14.

ST ALBANS: LD No change
LD 8, Lab 7, C 6, LD lose 9, Lab gain 4, C gain 5. **New council:** LD 30, Lab 16, C 11.

SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM: NOC No change
Lab 6, LD 4, C 4, Ind 2. Lab lose 1, LD lose 1, C gain 2. **New council:** *Lab 21, LD 12*, C 11, Ind 4.

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE: NOC No change
Lab 3, LD 4, C 9, Ind 1. Lab lose 3, LD gain 1, C gain 2. **New council:** Lab 21, LD 16, C 13, Ind 3.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE: NOC No change
Ind 6, C 5, LD 5. Lab 2, Ind lose 3, C gain 1, LD gain 3. Lab lose 1. **New council:** Ind 18, C 15, LD 13, Lab 9.

SOUTH LAKELAND: NOC No change
LD 6, C 3, Lab 6, Ind 2. LD lose 2, C gain 1, Lab gain 2, Ind lose 1. **New council:** LD 20, C 13, Lab 10, *Ind 9*.

STEVENAGE: Lab No change
Lab 12, LD 1. Lab lose 1, LD gain 1. **New council:** Lab 37, LD 2.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON: NOC No change
LD 10, C 7, Ind 1, Lab 1. LD gain 1, C gain 1. Ind lose 2. **New council:** LD 24, C 18, Ind 6, Lab 5, Others 2.

STROUD: NOC No change
Lab 8, C 3, LD 3, Ind 3, Green 2. Lab lose 2, C gain 3, LD lose 2, Ind gain 1. **New council:** Lab 26, C 10, LD 9, Ind 6, Green 4.

SWALE: NOC No change
LD 7, Lab 7, C 2. LD lose 1, C gain 1. **New council:** LD 22, Lab 19, C 7, *Ind 1*.

TAMWORTH: Lab No change
Lab 10. Lab gain 3, C lose 1, Others lose 2. **New council:** Lab 28, C 1, Ind 1.

TANDRIDGE: NOC No change
LD 7, C 7, Lab 2. LD lose 1, C gain 1. **New council:** LD 18, C 17, Lab 7.

THREE RIVERS: NOC No change
LD 9, C 6. Lab 2. LD 23, C 17. Lab 8.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: C gain from NOC
C 15, Lab 2, Ind 1, C gain 12, LD lose 12. **New council:** C 27, LD 12, Lab 7, Ind 2.

WATFORD: Lab No change
Lab 7, LD 3, C 3. LD lose 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 21, LD 8, C 7.

WAVENEY: Lab No change
Lab 11, C 2, LD 1, Ind 2. Lab lose 3, C gain 1, Ind gain 2. **New council:** Lab 41, C 3, LD 2, Ind 2.

WELWYN HATFIELD: Lab No change
Lab 9, C 10. Lab lose 3, C gain 3. **New council:** Lab 27, C 20.

WEST LANCASHIRE: *Lab No change* Lab 9, C 8, Ind 1, Others 1. Lab lose 3, C gain 1, Ind gain 1. Others gain 1. **New council:** Lab 32, C 20, Ind 2, Others 1.

WEST LINDSEY: LD lose to NOC
LD 7, Lab 2, C 3. LD lose 2, Ind lose 2, *Lab gain 2, C gain 3, Others lose* 1. **New council:** LD 18, Ind 9, Lab 5, C 4, Others 1.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE: NOC No change
C 9, Ind 2. LD 6, Lab 1. C gain 5, Ind lose 2, LD lose 2, Lab lose 1. ***New council:*** *C 14, Ind 13*, LD 12, Lab 10.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND: NOC No change
Lab 5, LD 5, Ind 2. Lab gain 1, Ind lose 1. **New council:** Lab 16, LD 13, Ind 4, R 2.

WINCHESTER: *LD* No change
LD 16, C 2, Ind 1. LD gain 1, C gain 1, Lab lose 2. **New council:** LD 37, C 10, Lab 4, Ind 4.

WOKING: LD lose to NOC
LD 5, C 4, Lab 2. LD lose 2, C gain 2. **New council:** LD 16, C 11, Lab 7, *Ind 1*.

WORCESTER: Lab No change
Lab 8, C 3, LD 1, Ind 1. Lab lose 1, C gain 1, LD lose 1, Ind gain 1. **New council:** Lab 22, C 10, LD 2, Ind 2.

WORTHING: LD No change
LD 6, C 6, LD lose 3, C gain 3. **New council:** *LD 21*, C 15.

WYRE FOREST: Lab No change
Lab 9, LD 2, C 2, Lib 1. Lab gain 2, *LD lose 2, C gain 1, Ind lose 1*. **New council:** Lab 28, LD 6, C 4, Lib 3, Ind 1.

UNITARY

BRISTOL: Lab No change
Lab 11, LD 7, C 4. Lab lose 6, LD gain 4, C gain 2. **New council:** Lab 43, LD 17, C 7, Vac 1.

DERBY: Lab No change
Lab 10, C 3, LD 1. Lab lose 2, C gain 1, LD gain 1. **New council:** *Lab 37, C 4, LD 3*.

HARTLEPOOL: Lab No change
Lab 8, LD 4, C 4. Lab lose 7, LD *gain 4, C gain 3. New council: Lab* 33, LD 8, C 5, Ind 1.

ISLE OF WIGHT: LD lose to NOC
LD lose 15, C gain 9, Ind gain 5. Lab gain 1. **New council:** LD 16, C 15, Ind 11, Lab 4, Others 2.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL: Lab No change
Lab 15, LD 2, Ind 2, C 1. Lab lose 4, LD gain 2, Ind gain 1, C gain 1. ***New council:*** *Lab 53, LD 4, Ind 2*, C 1.

MILTON KEYNES: Lab No change
Lab 10, LD 6, C 2. Lab lose 2, LD gain 1, C gain 1. **New council:** Lab 27, LD 19, C 4, Ind 1.

PORTSMOUTH: Lab No change
Lab 7, LD 3, C 3. LD lose 2, C gain 2. **New council:** Lab 21, LD 10, C 8.

SOUTHAMPTON: Lab No change
Lab 9, LD 5, C 1. Lab lose 1, LD gain 1. **New council:** Lab 28, LD 14, C 3.

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Lab No change
Lab 17, LD 2, C 1, Ind 1. Others 1. Lab lose 3, LD gain 2, C gain 1, Ind gain 1, Others lose 1. **New council:** Lab 54, LD 3, C 1, Ind 1, *Others 1*.

SWINDON: Lab No change
Lab 11, LD 3, C 4. Lab gain 1, C gain 2, *Ind lose 3*. **New council:** Lab 40, LD 9, C 5.

go

How to fly yourself economy-class

The Aeronca Chief is ideal for flying clubs to operate on a shoestring, says Stephen Brennan


CLIVE NICE

So simple, it flies itself: an Aeronca owned by an Ohio pilot took off on its own after he had swung the prop to start it. It flew pilotless to 12,000ft, then ran out of gas and landed in a field miles away

If you look at the price tags on the new range of light aircraft arriving from the US you would be forgiven for thinking that general aviation is a rich man's pastime.

None of the new Cessnas and Pipers can be bought here for less than £100,000, and self-fly hire, even of an old model C172 or PA28, can cost between £80 and £120 an hour.

But the backbone of sport flying in Britain is composed of the many flying clubs and groups who fill the skies every weekend in light, single-engined types that, although long in the tooth, do not cost a fortune to own or operate.

One of the most reasonably priced of these groups must be that headed by Clive Nice, 40, of Braintree, Essex. His outfit consists of Nice and five others, who jointly own an Aeronca 11AC Chief, a variant of the 7AC Champ, based at Andrewsfield airfield, near Stansted. The others are Tony Newman, John Minnis, Chris Long, Andy Smith and Dennis Wright.

I first spotted the little plane, registration G-BRXF, when I was on final approach at Calais airport with a stiff crosswind. Tony and John had landed just before me on the grass strip and were parked on my left. Every control surface of the little Chief was turned steadfastly into wind.

They followed my PA28, for which I pay £75 an hour plus landing fees, to the apron and we got talking about their Aeronca and their costs. I was amazed at how cheaply they manage to fly.

Aircraft maintenance is often very expensive. But a low-tech machine such as an Aeronca can be maintained at a reasonable cost. Owners can perform certain tasks under Popular Flying Association (PFA) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) rules, such as changing spark plugs, oil and tyres, so long as the work is checked by a PFA inspector. Other checks have to be done by licensed maintenance personnel.

Engine maintenance is critical. The CAA specifies certain checks at regular intervals. So long as everything is up to scratch the engineer signs off the engine for another 50 hours. However, Mr Nice had to increase the members' hourly flying from £18 to £20 to pay for the reconditioned engine that will be needed in a few years.

The metal propeller is also a critical item. However, as it is fixed-pitch it needs little maintenance. The CAA specifies what work can be done by owners to the prop, so small dents and scratches can be smoothed out with a file.

Control surfaces — ailerons, rudder and elevator — are linked to the yoke by cables which have to be maintained at a certain tension. Under PFA rules the tension can be checked by the owners. Any remedial work can be carried out by an M3-class licensed engineer at minimal cost.

So what is it like to fly? Mr Nice says: "Because it is a taildragger, it can be a bit tricky to land and taxi in high winds, but it is stable once airborne. It has pronounced dihedral [slant] on the wings, which coupled with soft oleo struts with a long travel can combine to inflict sudden ground-loops in a crosswind.

> 'It stalls at 42mph. It makes for unhurried landings'

"It cruises at 90mph with a two-hour range, which puts the Continent in range. It stalls at 42mph, which makes for unhurried landings. Short field performance is impressive, with a 150m take-off and landing distance. It's ideal for farm strips, and most Aeroncas in the UK are based on them."

The powerplant is a 65hp Continental A65-8 piston engine that carries no alternator, so power for the electrical system is supplied by a 12-volt battery and a spare is carried. Power is needed for the hand-held radio wired into the dashboard, and the strobe light. As the aircraft is licensed to fly only in visual conditions in daylight, no collision lights are required. Modern radio navigation aids are not carried, so possession of dead-reckoning navigation skill is essential for the pilot.

Mr Nice says that what puts people off the Chief is the need to start it by swinging the propeller, as there is no electric starter. But he has never had a problem with it. Last November an Aeronca owned by Paul Sirks of Ohio took off on its own after he had swung the prop to start it. It flew pilotless to 12,000ft, then ran out of gas and landed itself in a field miles away.

The Aeronca 7AC Champ is a single-engined, high-wing light aircraft seating two in tandem. The type dates back to May 1944. The first of 7,200 aircraft built was flown by the Aeronautical Corporation of America, later to become Bellanca in the Fifties.

Companies come and go, but in the world of aviation the type certificate is all important. It is this document that makes the aircraft legal. Currently, the type certificate for the Aeronca 7AC and its variants is owned by the American Champion Aircraft Corporation.

In America, in the spring of 1949, an Aeronca Chief, called *Sunkist Lady*, set a world flight-refuelled endurance record flying non-stop for 1,008hr, 1min (42 days).

To take on fuel, the two pilots, Bill Barris and Dick Reidel, swooped low four times a day, flying just above a Jeep from which they hauled up fuel cans and food.

● *Popular Flying Association, Terminal Building, Shoreham Airport, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5FF. Tel: 01273 461616; Website: http://www.pfa.org.uk*

MAINTAINING A VINTAGE AIRCRAFT

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With Clive Nice's group, individual outlay consists of a £2,000 initial share purchase, a monthly payment of £32 and a flying rate that has only just gone up from £18 to £20 an hour.

The group has membership of the Andrewsfield Aviation club, costing £70, and a landing card that covers all landing fees there can be bought for £60 a year. The £32 a month covers insurance at £1,000 a year and hangarage at £1,260 a year.

Many flying groups are formed as limited companies, with each member as a director. But Clive's group is informal, with no written agreement. Their existence is recognised, however, by a joint account at the Woolwich.

An annual check by a PFA inspector is mandatory, costing £145, and the Chief has always passed the inspection.

The aircraft was bought in November 1992 for £7,500 as a crate of parts. One advantage was that it came with a reconditioned engine. With six group members each contributing £2,000, the kitty stood at £12,000, so they had £4,500 change, which was spent on the assembly. The £2,000, however, is an investment, as shares in an aircraft can be traded, and often appreciate.

Building the aircraft was not a major high-technology task, but very time-consuming. Clive lost count of the man hours that went into the machine.

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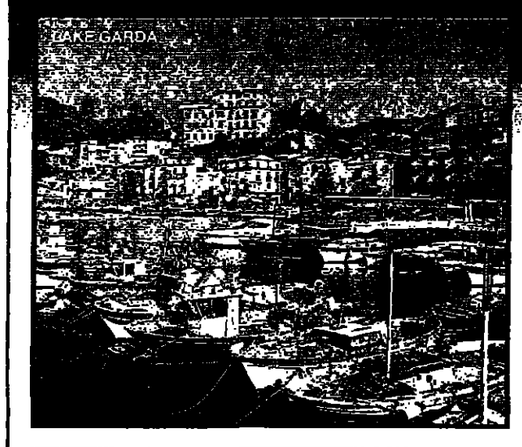
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CHANGING TIMES

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No hype: E-Type is reborn

Alan Copps is blown away by the new supercharged Jaguar XKR's winning combination of storming power, refined comfort and price

A funny thing happened the first day I set off for work in a supercharged Jaguar XKR. After a dozen miles of twisting Kentish roads, I pulled on to the M20 to find myself tailing a convertible XK8. I glanced in the mirror and found a XK8 coupé following close behind; three of Coventry's finest heading towards London in line astern.

It says something about the XK8: when Jaguar introduced the car nearly two years ago it was proclaimed as the spiritual successor to the E-Type. Marketing hype doesn't come any more audacious, mess with the reputation of the E-Type and you mess with the ultimate icon of postwar British motoring.

But the risk paid off. the XK8 is established as the fastest-selling sportscar in Jaguar's history — nearly 15,000 were sold worldwide last year. Now with the XKR, the company has gone one better, producing a model that puts Jaguar firmly back in the supercar league alongside Ferrari, Porsche and the rest.

This is not just another sportscar, the coupé I tested is a grand tourer with a turn of speed that leaves the driver breathless. The supercharger helps the 4-litre V8 engine pump out 370bhp (28 per cent more than an XK8), hitting 60mph in just 5.2 seconds on the way to a top speed electronically limited to 155mph.

What it might do unfettered was a matter for enthusiastic conjecture at its launch: 175mph? A little more, say Jaguar's' engineers. But Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, BMW and others have an unwritten agreement to govern road cars to a top speed of 155mph. Only on a derestricted *autobahn* could this car's most impressive acceleration above 100mph be felt.

The figures are impressive enough, but as with all Jaguars it is the combination of speed, style and comfort that counts. In that respect the engineers have done well to leave the essential XK8 well alone. The only exterior clues to the extra performance are badges, a mesh grille, louvred bonnet for extra cooling and, reluctantly on the part of the stylists, a rear spoiler to balance changes in the airflow caused by the louvres.

The interior remains pure Jaguar, hide and walnut, seats of comfort and instruments of clarity, and the J-gate gearshift that gives the driver the option to use the automatic box as a clutchless manual.

Jaguar gave up offering a manual option because only 3 per cent of worldwide sales — most of them in Britain — wanted a manual. With the power of this supercharged cat, a manual would be an embarrassment to most drivers. And the auto, a tuned Mercedes design, delivers the power smoothly yet reacts just as quickly on kickdown.

The ride, too, is outstandingly smooth, thanks to computer-controlled adaptive suspension, although here I would raise my one serious quibble: the ride is excellent when motorway cruising, and enthusiastic driving on twisting roads is rewarded as the suspension and steering tighten to create tremendous agility for a large car. But take your foot off the gas and it all seems to go too soft too soon, the feedback is so firm at speed I felt the need for a little more when just tootling along.

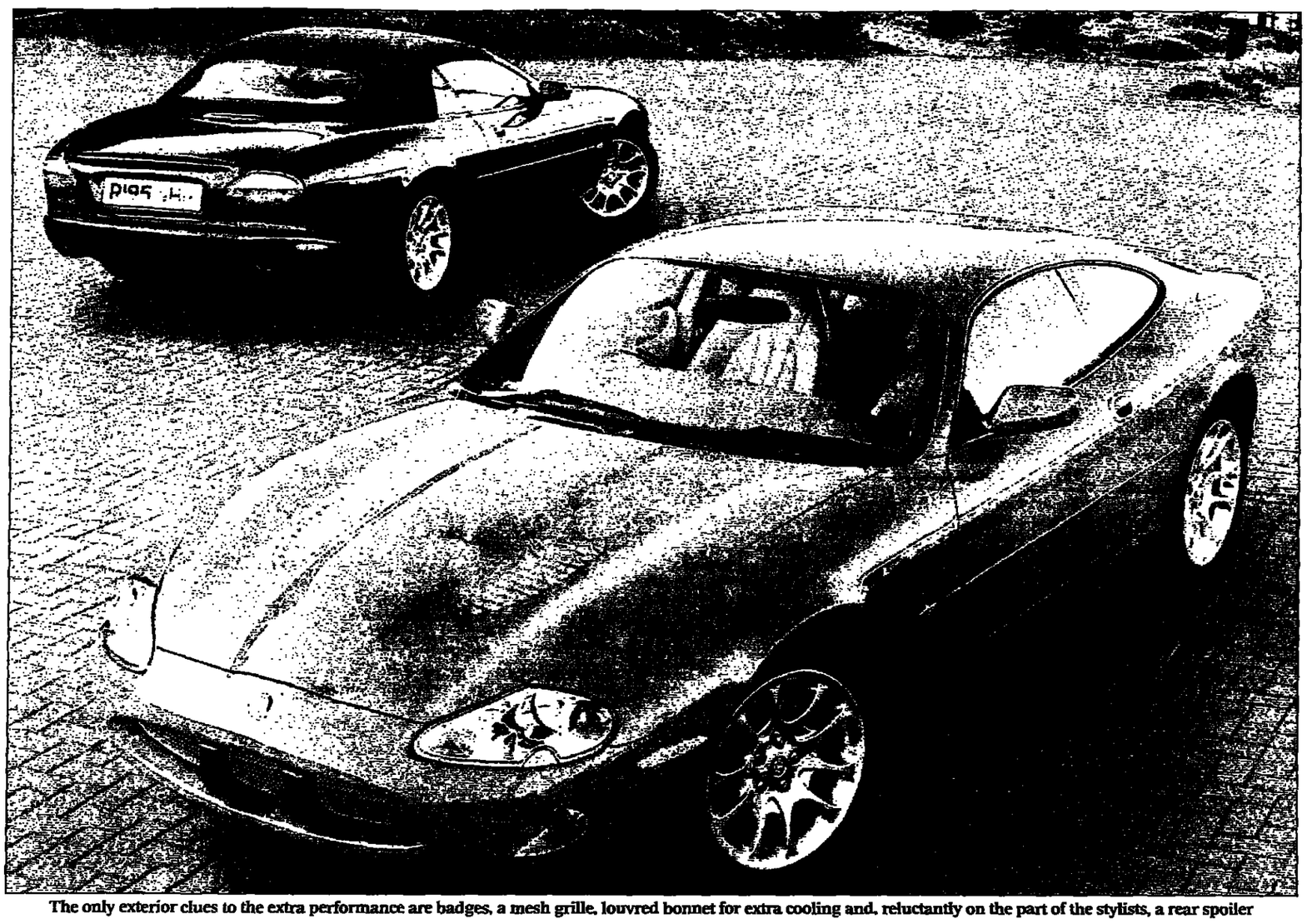
My other reservation disappeared in the course of a week's driving. During the brief launch drive, I was reluctant to believe the claimed average fuel consumption of 23.1mpg, which would put it ahead of any rival. After about 100 miles of admittedly vigourous driving, none of it in town, the on-board computer indicated a depressing 17mpg.

My suspicions increased when I first filled the 16.5-gallon tank at the M20 services and found the computer indicating a range of just 277 miles: not far for £50. But the calculation was based on previous drivers.

I set off for work at the legal speed limit and returned in the same style, driving by no means slowly but avoiding any sensational acceleration. By the time I returned home that evening I had covered 92 miles since filling up, at an average speed of 42mph, with the computer indicating a range of 268 miles. The average consumption read 22mpg.

I didn't, of course, drive that gently all the time — what's the point of having a car like this if you can't just put your foot down from time to time and hear the supercharger wail even at British speeds — but when I reluctantly returned the car to Jaguar, I had covered 500 miles at an average of 20.2mpg, enough to restore my faith in the figures.

Its most direct rival, the Mercedes-Benz SL600, costs £103,000 and cannot match it in either pace or economy, so the XKR at £59,300 looks like a good deal. We'll never see such a bargain as the £2,000 E-Type again, but the whole package suggests that Jaguar has not forgotten that keen pricing was an essential part of William Lyons' magic.



The only exterior clues to the extra performance are badges, a mesh grille, louvred bonnet for extra cooling and, reluctantly on the part of the stylists, a rear spoiler

JAGUAR XKR

Engine: 4-litre all-aluminium V8 with Eaton supercharger producing 370bhp at 6,150rpm.
Transmission: Electronically controlled five-speed automatic with sport and normal modes.
Performance: 0-60mph in 5.2 seconds (convertible 5.3 seconds). Max speed: 155mph.
Economy: (Government figures) urban 16.9mpg; extra-urban 29.3mpg; combined 23.1mpg. (convertible 16.1mpg; 28.8mpg; 22.4mpg).
Equipment: Computerised active suspension, cruise control, traction control and stability control.
Price: £59,300 (convertible £66,300).

Interior remains classic Jaguar — wood and leather

Lyons-made by hand

Stuart Birch on cars built at an arm's wave

Sir William Lyons, the founder of Jaguar, was an intuitive car stylist. He knew exactly how his cars should look if they were to be the envy of his competitors and the delight of his customers. But when the car that would eventually materialise as the XJ6 was a gleam in his eye he had one big problem — he couldn't draw it.

Bob Knight, who worked for Jaguar for 37 years, and was managing director in 1978, explains how Lyons created the classic saloon that celebrates its 30th anniversary this year: "He couldn't draw to save his life: he could only style in metal. So at about 3pm, when he was fed up with running the business, Lyons would walk down to the styling shop and start waving his hands in the air to show what he envisaged.

"A sheet-metal worker would be with him, watching all this, and would set about trying to create what he thought was wanted. It was not easy.

"When Lyons decided the MkII should be replaced with what became the XJ6, there was a crisis because the sheet-metal worker with whom he had worked for years had left the company. He got through a couple of dozen others before he found one with whom he could communicate — who understood what all this arm and hand-waving was about."



Sir William Lyons: "Could not draw to save his life."

He adds: "But that was always the way with Lyons; all the styling models he evolved were in sheet metal, not sketched. It was what he understood. It might have been unconventional but he did it brilliantly — and very successfully."

As well as the XJ6 anniversary, 1998 also marks the 50th anniversary of the XK120, which became one of the world's most desirable sportscars: "Lyons did the 120 in no time: it took only six weeks to design and build the aluminium prototype. I remember asking him what fundamentals he had in mind when he styled new models. He said, 'I just try to make nice cars.' And that was that."

Today, the creation of new models is an intensive — and expensive — computer-driven process, demanding complex design to meet safety and environmental laws. But for the autocratic Lyons (he even addressed his board directors by their surnames) it was a relatively straightforward business of matching elegant, long-bonneted bodywork with powerful engines at a price no one else could match.

Knight, now 78, worked alongside Lyons from 1944 and went on to struggle with the company's problems as it was swallowed by BMC. "In the early days, Lyons would have an idea for a new car, talk to us about it, ring up Bert Henley, the leading Jaguar dealer, and ask him whether he thought he could sell it. That was how projects started. It was gut reaction. There was no styling department in the modern sense during Lyons's time. The styling shop was looked after as a side issue by the superintendent of the wood mill."

When Knight joined Jaguar, it was still involved in wartime military contracts, although there was a little furtive development under way on the double-overhead-camshaft engine. It would be designated XK. "Work on the XK120 started later. It was one of Lyons's quick and spontaneous jobs. He suddenly decided he needed a new sports car. The chassis was a shortened version of the MkV saloon's."

Unveiled at the 1948 motor show, it was a sensational and instant success — just as the E-Type would be 13 years later: "For decades, Lyons, who retired in 1972 and died in 1985, created most of the Jaguar models — with the exception of the E-Type — in his spare time. It was a phenomenon not seen before or since. If we watched him styling, he would turn and glower at us."

A full-scale model of a new car would be made in softwood and painted black. It would then be polished. Lyons reckoned that if it looked good, any other colour would look better. "That was how the XJ6 came into being. It was his car and no one was allowed near it as a project until he had finished the body styling."

That was in 1964, when Knight was deputy director of engineering to Bill Heynes, father of the XK engine: "Lyons was all for aesthetics — for proportion, a long bonnet, windscreen far back — not packaging, so once he had presented us with the shape, we had to find ways of getting people into the back seats or even opening the bonnet."

The XJ6 was 1968 car of the year. It was to suffer bouts of quality problems — Knight puts most of the blame on component suppliers — but its styling was to prove enduring.

Now, the latest XJ saloons have styling details that echo the shape created by Lyons's flailing arms all those years ago: "We had no idea that the XJ6 would become a classic. Our biggest concern when it was launched was the price — just over £2,000 for the 4.2-litre, £1,797 for the 2.8. Lyons was alarmed that it wouldn't succeed at the price. For once, he was wrong."

XK120 is still the cat's whiskers

A boy's dream comes true for **Stuart Birch**

The world's most famous Jaguar XK120 is NUB 120. It twice won the RAC and Alpine rallies outright and, driven by Ian and Patricia Appleyard, the car has accrued a host of other honours, including — unlikely though it may seem — the Butlin's Trophy for best performance in the Clacton-on-Sea Rally.

Now insured for £250,000, it is a centrepiece of Jaguar's museum, the Jaguar-Daimler Heritage Trust, cosseted at the Coventry plant where it was built in 1950.

I have wanted to drive an XK120 since I was a boy, and Jaguar made my dream come true by letting me play with NUB 120 for an afternoon.

The steering wheel is enormous, the horn button a threatening few inches from my chest; the pedals are worryingly close together for my size-tens. The bonnet stretches away between the front wings. The seat is upright, unsupportive. The windowless doors have a cutaway for added elbow-room.

STEVEN HILL/NEWSTEAM



Bob Knight, the former Jaguar managing director, squeezed into the world's most famous rally-winning XK120

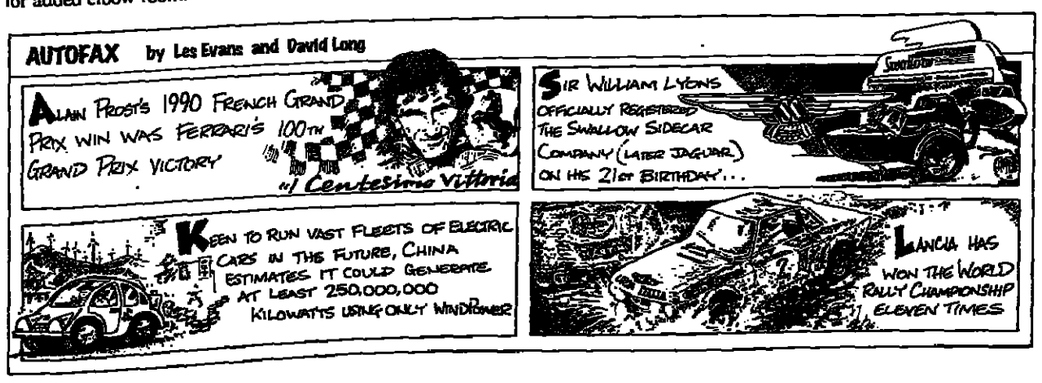
I turned the ignition key, pushed the chrome starter button and the XK engine, believed to be tuned for over 200bhp, instantly ticked over quickly and smoothly. Selecting first gear via the little gearlever, I released the fly-off handbrake and NUB 120 moved away amid a cacophony of gear whine and an uninhibited bellow of exhaust.

Fifteen minutes later, clipping along West Midlands lanes, moulding my body to the ghastly driving position, I started to appreciate the XK120 for what it is: a real sports car. The handling inspires confidence and the ride is surprisingly good. Brakes are reassuring. NUB 120 still carries much of its rallying kit, including stoneguards for the lights, twin stopwatches and leather strap around the long, louvred bonnet.

I pictured myself sweeping through alpine hairpin bends, the sound of the XK's exhaust echoing from peak to peak. If ever there was a car of character it is NUB 120. I was hopelessly in love with it.

By way of something entirely different, I tried Sir William Lyons's personal XJ6, also part of the Heritage Trust's collection. Registered in January 1970, the car was renovated in 1995 by The Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club. Its 4.2-litre XK engine does not show its age, and its all-independent suspension, the responsibility of Bob Knight, gives it a ride the envy of many a modern luxury car maker.

The interior, of course, is all walnut and hide, with a dashboard which carries a panoply of instruments and switches. Its styling remains distinctive, elegant — a fine example of the arm-waver's art.



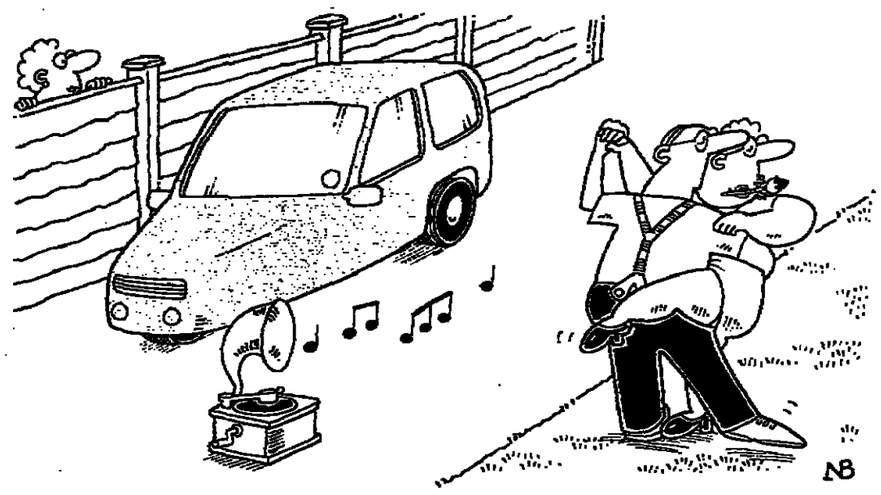
Ban sex from car adverts? What would be left? Motoring commercials are not about machinery, so the watchdog's clean-up campaign is doomed to fail

Cor, what a lovely pair of headlamps

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard



Has the Advertising Standards Authority been in Rip Van Winkle mode? Apparently the ASA is upset about a boom in the use of "naked women". One disliked advert showed a woman in a jacket, G-string, stockings and high heels. Now what in heaven's name can this advertisement be for? *Quite right: car audio* equipment.

Another advert, also for hi-fi, did not have a woman wearing jacket, G-string, stockings and high heels. It had a woman wearing none of these things: she was wearing nothing, unless you count the speaker that had been placed between her legs. She was also wearing a look of terror on her face: *perhaps someone was playing* an Andrew Lloyd Webber album through the speaker?

The ASA is of course quite right, but where has it been all these years? There is nothing connected with cars that is not sold using sex, but the situation is not nearly as bad as it was even 20 years ago, when the girls employed to sell cars at motor shows were draped over bonnets in bikinis. Half-naked and prone is not a very ambiguous position, but then the bonnet of the E-type Jaguar was not designed that way for engineering reasons: it had more to do with girls than engines.

Nowadays greater subtlety is at work. The girls are still pretty but their state of undress is related to the car's position in the market. The basic rule is: the more sporty the car, the more flesh is visible on the girl. But even at the sports car end of the market, the trend is away from bikinis towards hotpants and tops. The look is more Spice Girl than *Baywatch*. Classier saloons are sold by *girls in smart* suits; they resemble air stewardesses, with similar implications in the minds of the marketing folk.

These changes have left the more overt sexuality to the accessories market, hence the hullabaloo about car stereo adverts. But if the ASA *thinks that is bad, it should* look at some of the magazines aimed at lorry drivers, where there *is no such thing as a single*-entendre: exhaust pipe and twin headlamps take on a meaning previously unguessed at. Glancing through one of these magazines, for purposes of research, I was left agog, but not at the imagery. I could not decide which was more appalling: the stereotyping of women or the stereotyping of lorry drivers.

Both of these are overshadowed by my agogness at the naivety of the ASA, which appears to think that the selling of cars and their components has anything to do with the intrinsic merit of the product. Car advertising, especially on television, lives in a world of its own. I like Ben Elton's reaction to watching a car commercial: he doesn't care about the car, just tell *him where the road is.* The only time another car appears in these commercials is when the vehicle being sold is claimed to have the suppleness of a cat in escaping from traffic jams, usually into rat-runs that in reality would be as choked as main roads.

The fact is that cars are laddish. I remember overhearing a conversation between two young women in which one said to the other: "What sort of car has he got?" The reply was: "It's a red one." Very few men would ever say that, even if they know nothing about cars.

The least a man will say is that "all cars look the same nowadays", which conveys the impression that nothing worthy of his attention has happened in car design since he circled *Le Mans in a gull-winged* Mercedes. The fact that he has never heard of Le Mans and thinks a gull-winged Mercedes is a seabird is neither here nor there: he has preserved the myth that men know about cars.

Men do not know very much about cars. I do not know very much about cars. I like cars. I like the tenor saxophone, but I can't play one. *Advertising agencies* exploit this reality. The latest Peugeot commercial, which suggests that Kim Basinger is attainable but the 406 is a mere dream, seems not to have attracted complaints, though Citroën may for undressing Claudia Schiffer in an Xsara commercial.

These commercials suggest that a car and a woman are more or less equal ambitions. Not for nothing is the principal component in a car called its body.

More des-res van than people mover

Vaughan Freeman tries out an MPV that has an identity problem

MULTIVAN TDI

Engine: 2.5-litre 102bhp five-cylinder in-line turbocharged *direct-injection diesel.* Five-speed manual.
Top speed: 98mph.
Economy: urban, 35mpg; 30.7mpg at motorway speeds.
Price: £22,568.



Double bed and strip-lights are among the comforts, as well as large luggage capacity

In a sales pitch more suited to a *small bungalow than* a car, Volkswagen is focusing on the double bed, window blinds and strip-lighting in its latest product, rather than top speed or sexy styling.

Perhaps such an approach is inevitable as carmakers seek ever more tightly targeted niches.

The seven-seat Multivan also features a table which folds out between the two rows of rear seats that face each other, to enable busy executives on the move to hold ad-hoc conferences, or which *children can use while scrib*bling in their colouring books.

Above the table is a power-point for a television or laptop computer, and the carpets can be stripped out to reveal hose-down plastic flooring, if you are planning a particularly dirty weekend.

VW already has an Espace-type people carrier with its Sharan, but says the Multivan, which is 9cm longer, addresses the complaint that while most multipurpose vehicles can carry lots of people, or lots of luggage, they cannot do both at once.

VW claims its Caravelle-based MPV can seat seven, but with four times more luggage than other similar vehicles, and can also carry more weight and tow heavier loads. A huge rear door reveals a genuinely *useful split-level* load area in the back.

Paul Buckett, a company spokesman, says: "It is probably the only vehicle designed as a van and as a people carrier." While the van design *link improves the load and* people-carrying, the parallels are not so comfortable on the road.

The frugal diesel engine is noisy at idle and the whistle of the turbo is intrusive. On *motorways, the flat sides suf*fer from sidewinds, and in the back, while children might enjoy the facing seats, adults might not be as comfortable.

BEETLE WINS SAFETY AWARD

VOLKSWAGEN'S new Beetle has been rated the safest of 16 small cars for protecting its occupants in crashes, a US insurance testing organisation has said.

The redesigned Beetle beat the Honda Civic into second *place, according to the study* released by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety this week.

"The new Beetle sets the standard among small cars for how well it protects its occupants in serious crashes, as measured in a frontal offset crash test at 40mph," the institute said.

The Beetle was the only model to earn an overall evaluation of "good" and a "best pick" designation. Among the other 15 models, *nine are rated acceptable, two* are marginal, and four are poor overall. "The Beetle's excellent crashworthiness design, plus its bumpers that resist damage, indicate the commitment that Volkswagen's senior management has made to becoming a leader in this area," said the institute president, Brian O'Neill.

The organisation said the *Beetle's safety features in*clude good head-restraints to prevent whiplash, shoulder belts without excessive slack that could cause injury, side-impact airbags and bumpers that absorb impact with the least amount of damage.

The Beetle, built in Mexico, is due to be launched in Britain next year.



New Beetle: sets standards

ALFA ROMEO

GTV Lusso 2.0 twin spark. 96N 4,000 miles, Red/black. £18,000. Tel: 0181 878 4794.

BRAND NEW ALFA 156, 145/6, GTV, Spider & Flat Coupe. Save up to £3,708. As seen on Top Gear. ACC: 0181 680 1520

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DB 7 VOLANTE Auto, 96 P, clerk-land/pwr/memset, 5,000 miles. £77,500. Tel: 01621 892819

V8 Vantage, 1982, Dalbonet Magnolia hide piped. Exceptional cond. £27,500. 0121 333 7004.

AUDI

A3 1.6 Sport 97(P) 13,000 miles 1 lady owner. £16,995. 01225 812039 or 0966 176707

A8 4.2 Quattro. 95N ex-chairman exc. Immaculately maintained. 42,000 fully documented miles. Full spec/leather, heating cli-mate, memory seats, electric rear blind etc. Amazon green, beige leather. Practical. £21,950.ono. Tel: 01244 320440. Mobile 0411 247508 Private Sale.

AUDI A3 1.8T Sport, Aluminium Silver, CC, Recd Feb 98, 7k, £19,500 ono. 0121 351 1122.

CABRIOLET 2.6S,Brilliant Yellow, 1996, 7,000 miles, FSH, Full hide int, AC, CD, power hood, elec windows, abs, PAS, £24,960. Tel: 0181 4675057.

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325i Conv, Manual, 1990, Red/Black leather, Immac cond, FSH, 68k. £12,250. 01628 620384.

328, sport coupe, 95N, Black PEARL, 18in, A/C, abs, CD, 34k. £24,995. 0171 7313085.

328i Convertible, Aug 95, Mont blue/grey hthr, 25k. Good spec. Immaculate. £26,995. 0181 467 7105 / 0171 200 7445.

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M3 Coupe, 1995M, Dakar yellow, 24,000 miles, FSH, Air Con, Wide alloys, Rear spoiler, Rear headrests, Alarm, Immob, Tracker, CD. £29,950. Immaculate car. 01926 777025.

M3 Coupe, Avus blue/silver leather, 94M, FSH, a/bds, stnple play CD, rear spoiler, 53k, superb. £24,995. Tel: 01282 618033.7

M3 Evo Conv, 97P, Techno Violet/Lt grey hide, Climate, Elec/heat seats, pass nbag, h lamp wash, tint screen, alarm+ Tracker, BMW Wty, BROWSER, 19k miles. £41,500. 0468 577427.

M3 Evolution 96(N), 4 dr Saloon Razzil blue, grey leather, wood trim, climate, CD, 24,200miles FSH £33,495. Ask for Ben at E.S. Hardey 01539 822450

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11/97R Audi 2.8E Convertible. Brilliant Black, scarlet red leather s/seats, black p/hood, airbag, abs, e/windows x4, c/locking, otg, 17" a/wheels, 2,360mls. £30,995

97R Audi 2.6E Convertible. Volcano Black, anthracite leather/cloth s/seats, power hood, sports a/wheel, walnut, w/deflector, 17" 10 spokes, 5,260mls. £29,995

97R Audi 2.8E Convertible. Blue Pearl, full leather s/seats, blue p/hood, aircon, abs, airbag, e/windows x4, c/locking, c/mirrors, 10 spokes, 7,680mls. £25,995

97R Audi 2.0E Convertible. Cactus Green, ecru leather sports seats, power hood, abs, airbag, e/windows x4, c/locking, c/mirrors, a/wheels, 10,610mls. £24,995

97P Audi 2.0E Convertible. Cactus Green, ecru leather s/seats, black hood, abs, pas, sports airbag, ew x4, h/seats, c/d/mirrors, cdm, cdl, 10cd, audi immobiliser, 10 spoke alloy wheels, 3,760mls. £23,995

96N Audi 2.0 Convertible. Blue Pearl, full platinum leather interior, blue p/hood, aircon, abs, airbag, e/mirrors, 3rd h/light, ews4, r/locks, remote alarm, 10 spoke alloy wheels, 19,400mls. £22,995

95M Audi RS2 Avant. RS Blue, leather/alcantara recaro trim, a/con, c/roof, abs, 6 speed, ew, obc, s/seats, 10cd, r/rails, alarm, 17" carrera cup a/w, 38,600mls. £38,495

97R Audi A4 1.8 SE Auto Avant. Mag Blue, onyx upholstery, abs, climate, airbags, a/stc, r/locks, e/windows, obc, r/rails, alloy wheels 5,500mls. £22,995

97R Audi A4 1.9TDI 110Bhp SE Avant. Blue Pearl, aqua interior, airbags, climate, walnut, abs, cruise, 0/armrest, net partition, r/locks, cd, a/w, 7,680mls. £22,495

96P Audi A3 1.8SE Auto. Blue Pearl, alcantara, climate, airbags, c/s/roof, e/windows, 0/armrest, h/seats, a/stc, r/locks, c/mirrors, alloy wheels, 2,800mls. £20,995

97P Audi A4 1.9TDI 110Bhp Auto Avant. Aluminium Silver, black cloth, abs, airbag, e/s/roof, c/locking, cdm, r/h/rests, comp a/wheels, 9,960mls. £20,495

96P Audi A3 1.8. Aluminium Silver, black cloth interior, abs, airbags, traction, c/s/roof, cdl, a/s/column, r/h/rests, cdm, e/windows, a/wheels, 12,160mls. £12,995

95M Audi 80 2.6SE Estate. Volcano Black, black leather s/seats, abs, airbag, c/s/roof, cdl, c/d/mirrors, r/h/rests, roof rails, 10 spoke alloys, 17,680mls. £16,995.

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96P Audi A6 Estate 2.6 SE, 22,000 miles, Black, Walnut, Driver Information
95N Audi S2 Coupe, Ragusa Green, 15K, Leather, 1 Owner, FSH
97P Audi A4 2.8 SE Avant, Quartz, 13,000 miles, Leather upholstery, Remote Locking
96N Audi Cabriolet 2.0E, 13,000 miles, Kingfisher, Half Leather, Alloys
97P Audi Cabriolet 2.6, Blue Pearl, Power Hood, CD Player, 9,000 miles
98G Audi 100 2.0E Avant, Largo Blue, 37,000 miles, Cruise Control
97P Audi A6 2.8 SE Estate, Auto, Emerald Green, Leather
96N Audi A4 Turbo Sport, Black Metallic, 33,000 miles, CD Player, Competition Alloys
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AHK 828	1,400	HAZ 404	800	3526 MF	1,750	RN 3199	1,600
123 BV	2,400	HK 4741	1,600	MS RCX	2,500	RT 277	2,750
BW 7370	2,800	HRF 110	1,000	MIB 9669	800	688 RTU	500
CSK 685	800	JAG 601Y	500	M111 LKS	1,200	SFR 523	1,200
DA 44	7,000	JB 1346	3,600	MIL 345	1,200	SJG 400	3,000
4020 DP	2,000	JIL 1965	1,200	5125 ML	1,400	SJI 3	2,800
EK 7681	1,250	JIW 19	1,600	MMV 99	1,500	541 SMD	1,800
425 ELC	1,000	871 JMA	1,600	MPA 700	2,000	A15 OAN	500
ESB 74	1,600	846 KAB	1,800	558 MPC	1,800	UF 4	3,800
FAZ 1221	800	898 KMC	1,800	MPH 6W	600	WA 2160	1,400
GIL 58	2,500	862 KMG	1,500	MPW 29E	500	WD 122	2,000
GOW 257	1,000	KO 5184	800	5103 NC	1,500	WJI 6615	75
940 GWD	1,000	750 KYC	600	N16 ELX	1,500	1 WGA	5,000
H4 NON	1,000	LAB 305	1,800	A2 OJB	600	XLX 35	1,200
H4 TTS	1,300	LEO 30Y	900	PN 7874	1,600	XUH 4	1,500
HAZ 401	1,000	654 LMA	900	RDM 761	2,000	XUH 5	1,500
HAZ 402	800	792 LMT	1,400	REG 944X	600	YB 7794	1,200

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121 AAA	1 BJC	77 DC	NIGEL	JMS 1	1 LPM	16 PB	SBW 1
ABF 1	BJH 314	12 DD	18 GG	145 JON	LPS 1	1 PBS	SC 6105
ABS 708	BJP 10	DEB 7	GIL 388	JOY 987	30 LR	41 PC	DISCS
185 AC	BJR 222	8 DEE	65 GJ	69 JP	LS 7772	PEH 1	SCT 62
ACB 74	19 BM	11 DEN	GJM 229	JPS 22	1 LSB	92 PFM	SD 99
ADM 1W	222 BOB	DES 714	77 GJS	4 JRH	29 LTD	11 PHW	SDW 5
1 AFB	BPH 888	DJ 133	126 GL	5 JRS	LTS 2	PLC 17	1 SEM
385 AFH	BRJ 4	A45 DJS	99 GLH	62 JS	LYM 844	39 PM	9 SH
2 AHR	6 BRC	111 DJM	65 GM	JSB 8	70 MA	76 PMB	2 SJ
AJ 44	BRO 77	109 DJP	GMH 1	16 JT	11 MAT	7 POT	SJL 44
P5 AJB	BS 1	DJS 8	GO G1L	JTB 67	MAW 199	83 PS	SJM 10
460 AJD	18 BSS	DJT 39	35 GP	6 JW	33 MAX	PSR 11	SJR 53
AJG 416	BTE 1	2 DKS	GPJ 16	9 JWS	880 MB	PTL 685	19 SL
AJO 8	BW 2	39 DLT	83 GTB	5 KAB	MBH 143	PUF 40	444 SM
AJT 137	BZ 3871	DM 29	813 GUM	811 KAS	MBW 49	PW 44	SMC 856
33 AK	CAB 849	957 DMS	H 222	KB 8	3778 MC	R 84	SMW 497
1 AKS	CAW 515	24 DOC	25 HAM	1 KBG	1 MCA	RAH 480	SOW 779
13 AL	CB 5860	A1 DOG	1 HAW	KBW 7	MCB 485	RAL 256	1 SPR
ALH 19	CBS 11	DPB 498	HC 25	1 KCD	15 MD	RAS 18	SRB 76
726 ALX	35 CC	40 DR	25 HE	KDT 49	MEB 2	RAT 19	1 STH
327 AMB	COL 15	88 DRH	23 HOT	86 KEN	MGB 100	RAW 721	STL 20
393 AML	CE 8	11 DRS	IT 7	KJ 96	MGW 748	RAY 854	224 STU
180 AMR	24 CH	1 DSE	999 JA	188 KMB	MJ 6394	45 RB	SUN 757
11 AMS	CJ 69	DTB 93	999 JAG	KSL 1	MJB 130	RBS 2	T3
459 AMW	539 CJB	DTL 8	180 JAM	D KT	MJC 928	23 RC	11 TAB
5 ANJ	27 CJD	4774 DW	JB 41	80 LAB	1 MJD	RD 4282	TAH 93
P1 ANS	CJK 594	5 EC	JBC 386	3 LAN	1 MMS	ROW 485	32 TAL
41 ANT	CJS 688	11 EL	JDS 50	LAW 26	MNB 5	8 RED	TB 76
22 AP	44 CJW	900 EMW	JC 6259	LAY 685	MO 6	REM 5	6 TDH
87 APB	70 CK	47 ES	J4 JCB	62 LS	MOR 42	1 RET	2 TDS
888 APC	7 CKB	8 EST	JCF 886	LBR 11	MPA 709	RGB 51	TEE 1
535 APW	CKL 1	D1 ETS	JCH 359	LBW 1	789 MPB	24 RJ	1 TJA
23 AR	CL 1	25 EW	4 JDB	99 LC	4 MPH	RJA 555	TJW 907
ARM 1	CLH 493	11 FAB	JDL 110	1 LCP	MRS 22	RJB 1	TLB 308
1 ASJ	534 COX	FAN 1	99 JDM	LCW 679	41 MS	B1 RJC	TMS 69
13 AT	28 CP	51 FAT	JDR 128	LEA 20	55 MSL	B4 RJS	TPH 12
A1 ATC	449 CPB	25 FB	30 JEP	LEB 800	2 MSW	RJT 344	TRC 2
FIATS	CPH 927	FBS 1	JER 45	LEE 77	MTB 726	RLC 886	TRW 12
AW 516	17 CS	98 FJB	21 JET	6 LES	WTR 10	35 RM	TUB 876
382 AWB	1 CSP	FJT 1	JF 4	80 LF	77 NAB	128 RMB	6800 TW
21 AY	44 CT	525 FLY	JFC 698	LJ 68	42 NED	23 ROB	TWS 80
BA 6776	122 CTB	FMD 782	2 JFS	LJC 288	NGL 281	51 ROG	VE 4
16 BAM	6 CTW	58 FOX	JGN 11	LJD 812	40 NH	RPA 1	18 VT
9 BBC	18 CW	FPB 240	255 JH	B7 LJS	NMP 20	271 RPB	3 WAB
55 BCH	20 DA	66 FS	JL 69	80 LMB	NOT 45	RPM 7	123 WED
1 BDP	DAL 862	4 FTR	6 JL	75 LMS	5 NOW	23 RR	WET 35
BEN 888	780 DAN	GA 1	JLB 491	1 LNK	NR 9	70 RS	60 WM
730 BEV	188 DAS	79 GAB	JLM 669	38 LOT	2 NRB	3487 RW	1 WSM
BF 11	23 DAT	GAY 54	JM 4665	722 LOU	8 OAT	18 SA	2 WW
BGH 8	8 DAY	4 GBS	JMB 1	44 LP	8 OLD	SAG 6	81 X
8 BGT	1 DBR	23 GC	JMM 898	385 LPB	25 OS	7 SAL	XCE 11

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A5 PEN	BAT 3S	C4 BBY	CRU 15E					JEM 123	805 LEE	22 OR	420 S
A51 NGH	BAT 50N	C4 DET	44 CS					32 JEN	LEE 50N	55 OS	525 S
89 AA	BAY 11S	C4 FFS	48 CT					321 JET	55 LH	71 P	65 SA
60 AB	40 BB	C4 GES	CUL TY					51 JF	84 LL	P3 RKY	SAD 11K
ABS 111	4 BBA	C4 KES	1 CVH					1 JHG	24 LM	P4 TON	911 SAM
40 AC	18 BC	C4 MEO	D1 EHL	2 DJG	2 EGR	FAS 11	1 GDG	11 JHR	44 LS	P4 ULO	SAV 111E
ACR 11L	1 BCB	C4 NDY	D1 LEN	47 DK	2 EGS	2 FBK	25 GE	5 JHS	25 LW	35 PAM	34 SB
5 ACS	101 BD	C4 NON	D1 NJU	1 DKY	45 EH	40 FC	21 GEF	98 JJ	8 LX	101 PAT	194 SEC
45 AD	321 BE	C4 PES	D1 NNS	40 DL	1 EHM	1 FCF	GEM 51	14 JK	35 LYN	99 PB	999 SG
5 ADR	BEE 50N	C4 RAT	D1 PKA	45 DM	33 EJ	1 FCM	60 GG	24 JL	11 M	24 PC	51 SH
ADS 100	BEE 5E	C4 RLS	D14 ANE	5 DMS	1 EJA	1 FCS	80 GH	88 JM	M4 DDY	1 PGA	SHA 11Y
128 AF	BEN 1S	C4 RVE	D15 CUS	40 DN	33 EK	1 FDB	1 GHG	3 JMS	M4 NDY	PJS 5	911 SHE
24 AG	111 BF	C4 TER	D3 ANS	1 DNE	40 EL	2 FDR	50 GL	16 JN	M4 RKS	27 PM	SJM 100
30 AJ	1 BGL	C4 THY	D3 COR	1 DNH	ELO 15E	45 FE	69 GM	JOS 13	M4 RYS	80 PR	45 SK
2 AJA	24 BH	C4 TTY	D3 COY	DNS 5	ELS 5	550 FER	GOO 51E	42 JP	51 MA	PRO 5T	60 SL
2 AJE	BHE 11A	C70 VOL	D3 NNY	DOW 50N	44 EM	FER 355F	GOS 51P	6 JPS	MAR 15A	28 PS	400 SM
5 AJM	45 BJ	55 CA	D4 MES	1 DPN	28 EN	1 FEX	45 GP	29 JR	31 MB	25 PW	19 SP
AKR 4M	3 BJC	CAL 5Y	D4 NCE	35 DR	1 ENJ	70 FF	61 GR	34 JS	22 MC	R11 TAS	12 SR
35 AL	11 BJS	CAP 11N	D4 RES	2 DRD	1 ENT	1 FFS	44 GS	JUN 1A	40 MD	R4 DAR	27 SS
ALA 11N	18 BL	CAR 50N	D4 TES	999 DS	13 EP	2 FGS	55 GW	50 JW	60 ME	R45 CAL	90 ST
16 ALS	BLS 2	CAS 35	D4 VAL	2 DSA	EPS 11	FHS 1	45 H	K33 NAN	MEL 155A	999 RA	31 SUE
55 AMS	70 BM	CAS 51E	D41 NTY	2 DSF	82 ER	80 FJ	35 HA	121 KA	20 MF	RAK 85H	99 SW
201 AN	BMW 7S	31 CB	18 DA	3 DSH	5 ERS	1 FJG	25 HAH	KAM 4L	30 MG	11 RAN	500 T
ANE 5H	55 BN	1 CBN	121 DAD	2 DSN	7 ERS	11 FKS	1 HBL	5 KAN	6 MGA	RAS 7	1 TGM
ANJ 11E	BOL 50M	1 CBR	321 DAS	2 DST	45 ES	99 FL	18 HC	4 KAS	100 MGF	RAW 50N	29 TH
111 AP	BOW 5R	24 CC	46 DB	30 DT	1 ESE	40 FM	46 HER	KAT 3S	11 MGM	123 RAY	44 TM
7 APS	500 BP	21 CCC	DBS 999	2 DWF	11 ESH	2 FMS	20 HF	2 KCM	5 MGS	53 RB	57 TOM
24 AR	33 BR	80 CD	31 DC	111 DWS	8 ESS	9 FN	14 HH	54 KE	12 MH	28 RC	13 TR
ART 15T	BRK 1N	40 CE	5 DCM	73 E	5 ESX	7 FNF	99 HJ	KEL 50N	23 MJ	13 RD	41 TS
70 AS	BRY 50N	22 CF	3 DCS	E10 PED	50 ET	3 FOS	33 HM	65 KEN	2 MJA	550 RED	35 TT
2 ASC	42 BS	28 CG	38 DD	E13 VEN	8 ETS	99 FT	5 HOG	33 KG	2 MJG	1 RFS	12 TVR
ASH 15H	250 BSA	CHE 35E	13 DE	E4 RLS	1 EWH	51 G	18 HR	KHA 1R	1 MJL	35 RG	30 TW
ASH 1E	BSL 11	CHR 155Y	39 DEB	E5 SAY	F14 KES	G3 MMA	12 HS	35 KJ	MOS 5Y	1 RJD	911 V
ASL 111	1 BSN	40 CJ	4 DEM	1 EBA	F14 MBE	G3 OFF	99 J	KRY 51A	MOT 50N	30 RL	VEN 150N
55 AT	1 BSP	2 CJR	DEN 15E	25 ED	F15 HED	G4 VEL	J4 SON	54 KS	28 MR	71 RM	911 VET
AVE 10N	1 BST	44 CL	24 DF	1 EDS	F3 MUR	51 GA	45 JA	33 KT	71 MS	45 ROB	18 W
50 AW	99 BT	45 CM	40 DG	4 EDS	F3 NCE	3 GAN	44 JAN	70 L	5 MSM	ROK 3T	80 X
71 B	BUR 50N	19 CN	33 DH	26 EE	F4 NCY	60 GB	JAS 8	L8 GEY	MSS 555	ROS 15	
B14 CKS	BUT 50N	99 CO	2 DHB	1 EFG	F4 RAD	5 GBG	55 JB	L4 SER	25 N	18 ROY	
B3 ANS	34 BW	COL 50N	2 DHL	1 EFS	F4 XES	55 GC	24 JC	83 LAN	N1 KON	45 RP	
B3 NJY	30 C	COR 4L	2 DHS	28 EG	46 FA	1 GCC	121 JCB	LAR 155A	N1 SAN	13 RR	
B3 TTY	C13 VER	50 COS	48 DJ	1 EGL	11 FAN	46 GD	111 JCM	LAW 50N	1 NCP	28 RS	
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21 NCH, 123 WED, 5 WN
11 MAT, 2 ASJ, 15 HOW
51 W 18 JW 18 CW
24 HR MEG 18P GW 83
HJV 1 KFT 1 CILLA
DEV11N 66 B 3 NK
BBS 10JL 11 JL
DFE 1 1 DFE 1 TJA
1 JWJ 1 JDY ABF 1
1 FGR 1 CSG 1 GFT
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Do WAV to Mar 20	140.18	140.18		
UK Equity Safeguard	112.70	120.53†	-0.51	2.02
Do WAV to Mar 20	118.61	118.61		
US Eqy Safeguard	97.69	103.64	+0.99	
Cash	951.39	956.15†	+1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	418.90	445.60	-2.80	1.43
UK Small Cos	101.53	108.56	+3.01	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	117.98	126.08	+2.73	1.89
Geared UK Index	2791.11	2904.30†	-11.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	85.15	88.20	-0.10	6.32
Monthly Inc	45.57	48.75†	+0.12	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	332.20	352.20	+2.80	
American Smst	292.83	270.30	+2.67	
All US Index	2578.63	2717.03†	+15.09	4.00
European Gen	431.59	456.50	+21.30	0.88
European Smst	181.86	194.50	+7.33	
Japan Gen	99.09	105.00	+0.11	...
Asia Pacific	62.59	66.84	-1.52	1.89
Pacific Smst	97.13	103.87	-2.39	
Greater China	182.21	194.86	-7.24	
Latin America	104.96	112.24	-2.82	
Int Growth	188.36	201.44	+3.56	0.11
Balanced Exempt	179.80	185.40	+1.80	2.14
Global Strategy	52.32	55.95	+1.37	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	985.30	1046.00	-5.00	2.02
General Inc	799.10	849.10	-3.70	2.02
UK Growth Acc	676.00	719.10	-2.40	2.17
UK Growth Inc	424.60	451.60	-1.00	2.17
Higher Inc Acc #	1278.00	1359.00	-2.00	4.87
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Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	240.60	254.30	-0.70	5.75
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Europe	602.60	641.60	+27.80	0.44
Brit Excell	133.60	142.30	-0.90	2.03
Brit Fndmtls Acc	170.60	181.60	-0.10	4.16
Brit Fndmtls Inc	108.10	114.90	-0.10	4.16
Global Opps	136.30	144.90	+1.80	0.21
Balanced Acc	82.98	88.25	+0.13	2.11
Balanced Inc	75.27	80.01	+0.12	2.11
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Pac Basin Acc	272.60	290.00	-8.30	2.30
AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD				
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Discretionary	70.28	74.77	+0.91	
UK Income Inc	88.38	94.00	-0.82	2.16
Bass Inc Inc #	41.86	44.22	-0.16	6.12
High Yld Inc	127.90	136.00	-0.50	2.98
Inc & Gth Inc	119.50	127.00	-0.70	2.28
UK Smaller Cos	51.89	55.20	+1.22	1.64
Pacific Grth Port	33.19	35.31	-1.45	0.89
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Inc	147.90	156.50†	-0.50	5.71
High Inc Equity	250.20	267.60†	+1.20	3.91
Worldwide Bond	275.40	292.09†	+6.80	3.60
American Growth	581.50	621.00†	+6.40	0.22
Asian Pacific	215.40	230.40	-5.50	0.54
Assets & Earnings	400.70	428.60†	+1.40	2.38
Euro Capital Acc	309.90	331.40	+13.60	0.24
Extra Inc	43.97	46.78†	-0.03	6.94
General	365.20	388.50†	+2.60	2.48
Global Opps	86.45	91.97	+1.19	0.35
Japan	74.92	80.13	+0.13	..
Managed Inc	56.72	60.34†	+0.40	4.23
Mastertrust	208.00	222.50	+2.30	1.08
US Emerging Cos	244.30	261.30	+0.80	..
Ethical	106.60	113.40	+0.10	1.61
International	160.60	170.90	+2.40	0.58
Dividend & Growth	92.83	98.75†	+0.41	3.55
Global Gwth & Sec	80.70	86.08	+0.15	2.02
Latin America	78.57	83.59	-0.79	0.89
Capital Reserve	156.70	156.80	-0.20	4.46
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8580				
N&P UK Growth	132.50	140.90	-0.10	1.38
Equity Income #	183.00	194.80	+1.00	3.23
Extra Income #	337.10	357.80	+1.00	4.25
Smaller Cos	115.50	122.60†	+2.80	1.66
International	150.60	160.20†	+2.70	0.74
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 888 888 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	416.94	439.81	+6.95	..
Emg Mkts Inc	61.85	65.23	-1.63	0.43
Ethical Inc	98.12	103.82	-0.05	0.61
Euro Grth Acc	149.17	156.60	+6.56	..
Euro Spec Opps Acc	158.07	167.25	+7.18	..
Extra Inc Inc	252.28	266.14	+0.94	3.59
Extra Inc Acc	347.13	366.21	+1.30	3.59
FE Emg Econ	77.19	81.86	-1.58	0.72
Fixed Int Inc #	30.40	31.90†	+0.06	7.45
Frontier Mkt Inc	82.71	87.52	-0.58	..
Fund Of Inv Inc #	226.40	239.57†	+1.11	8.35
Fund Of Inv Acc	490.11	518.62	+2.41	8.35
Gilt Inc Inc #	51.25	53.42	-0.12	6.64
Global Bond Inc	41.18	43.02†	+1.04	4.82
Global Inc Inc	34.75	36.54	+0.33	3.31
Global Inc Acc	53.40	56.16	+0.51	3.31
High Inc Inc	190.80	201.05†	+1.70	3.43
High Inc Acc	256.21	271.14	+2.30	3.43
Japan Inc Inc	142.57	150.87	+8.34	..
Latin Amer Inc	68.45	72.43	-1.46	..
Master Inc Inc	69.59	73.63†	+0.88	2.34
Master Grth Inc	64.87	68.64†	+0.41	0.34
North Amer Inc	291.35	306.30	+2.02	..
North Amer Acc	291.70	306.86	+2.02	..
Pacific Inc	54.90	58.09†	-1.76	0.20
Prop Share Inc	103.54	109.56	-0.41	0.90
Recovery Inc	121.36	128.41	+1.42	1.26
Recovery Acc	137.96	145.98	+1.62	1.26
Special Sit Inc	198.73	210.30	+2.10	0.72
Special Sit Acc	225.08	238.19	+2.38	0.72
Tech Inc	881.85	928.13	-3.34	..
Tech Acc	881.85	928.13	-3.34	..
UK Blue Chip Inc	129.22	135.67	-1.74	2.19
UK Blue Chip Acc	155.56	163.33	-2.08	2.19
UK Emg Co Inc	88.80	95.99	+0.24	0.65
UK Grth Inc	78.50	82.61†	-0.50	0.89
World Port Inc #	101.30	107.20	+0.46	1.79
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2840.00	2953.00	+66.00	.
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Realty Property #	109.70	116.80		5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	117.92	125.11	+1.57	1.70
Income Builder Inc	110.11	117.14	+0.64	2.77
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Concept Gen Pens	157.10	163.20		
Foundtn Pens Pens	90.41	93.93	. .	.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	516.00	547.00	+7.60	..
Bond	123.60	129.90†	-0.40	6.32
Brit Smlr Cos	125.40	133.40	+2.40	1.00
Europe	451.90	478.80	+15.50	..
Euro Smlr Cos	153.50	163.40	+7.30	0.20
High Income #	76.99	81.90†	-0.82	4.49
Income	477.60	508.10	-1.70	3.40
Japan	268.30	285.20	-0.19	..
Latin American	111.50	118.60	-0.80	..
Pacific	73.42	78.11	-2.15	1.17
Uk Smlr Cos	73.97	78.69	+1.43	0.90
Japanese Sm Cos	458.30	472.50	+6.30	..
Mngd Fd	269.10	285.60†	-0.10	1.30
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Ossas	463.10	489.70	+5.60	0.71
Capital Gwth	185.90	196.60	+3.40	2.14
Wwide Opps	259.10	274.00	+3.80	0.60
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4600				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.60	100.60†	+0.10	6.73
Cash Acc	134.00	134.00	+0.18	6.73
Income #	814.60	866.90	+1.10	3.40
Income Builder #	92.59	98.61	+0.25	3.99
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	124.00	131.80†	+0.18	1.04
500	613.90	658.10	+9.10	1.42
General	472.80	504.00†	+0.40	1.15
Property	275.40	295.50	+0.40	5.84
Trustee	331.40	352.50	+0.80	1.11
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	211.80	226.40	+0.50	1.17
FTSE 100	153.00	162.40	-0.20	1.35
Growth Acc	658.90	700.90	-1.00	1.07
Smaller Cos	71.02	75.75	+1.20	1.59
Smaller Cos Acc	85.53	91.23	+1.45	1.59
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	267.10	282.00†	+1.40	.
American Growth	181.80	192.40	+0.10	.
Japan	88.34	94.32	-0.21	.
Japan Acc	90.37	96.41	-0.20	..
Japan Spec Sits	41.06	43.44	-0.16	..
Worldwide	244.30	259.20	+3.20	0.45
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	50.41	52.15	-0.11	6.46
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	50.72	52.87	-0.01	4.98
Managed Growth	53.48	56.91	+0.54	0.59
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Brokerline 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	143.80	144.50	+0.80	4.49
Equity Income #	196.70	209.60†	+0.90	3.48
Gt & Fx Int	64.99	67.28	-0.07	6.68
Int Fxd Int	101.50	104.90	+1.50	4.55
Int Fxd Int Acc	131.50	135.90	+1.90	4.55
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	606.30	645.00	+1.50	1.11
UK Growth Acc	606.30	649.00	+1.50	1.11
Growth & Inc	618.40	657.90†	+2.30	1.13
Growth & Inc Acc	1345.	1431.	+5.00	1.13
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	308.30	327.30	+13.30	0.22
Euro Growth Acc	338.70	358.40	+14.50	0.22
Far Eastern Gwth	106.10	112.90	-4.40	0.72
Far East Gth Acc	180.20	191.70	-7.50	0.72
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	210.00	221.60	-0.60	.
Amer Smllr Cos	180.70	192.20	-0.10	.
Eastern	153.90	164.90	-5.80	0.30
Equity Income #	138.30	148.40†	-1.00	4.60
European Growth	665.40	707.00†	+32.50	0.80
Europa	585.10	605.20	+30.40	0.50
German Growth	169.70	179.80	+8.10	0.50
Global Bond	75.97	79.93	+1.00	5.10
Global Growth	220.10	233.70	+3.00	0.10
Japan Growth	110.30	116.70	+0.40	..
Japan Smllr Cos	79.91	84.54	+0.81	..
Korea Trust	26.67	29.07	-2.64	..
Portfolio	203.80	217.00	+1.00	1.80
-do- Accum	395.60	421.40	+1.90	1.80
UK Growth	160.70	171.30	+0.20	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	158.80	169.60†	+3.60	1.00
Select Managers	108.30	115.50	+1.60	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	114.40	121.70	+1.60	...
Special Opps Inc	61.54	65.47	-3.08	...
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	210.05	219.80†	-2.56	0.54
-do- Accum	249.22	259.60	-3.07	0.54
Smaller Cos	224.50	233.85†	+4.88	0.09
-do- Accum	255.80	266.94	+5.33	0.08
Higher Yield #	80.53	83.69†	+0.20	3.31
-do- Accum #	132.22	138.77	+0.33	3.31
American Gth Inc	152.42	158.77	+1.66	..
European Growth	263.61	274.80	+15.29	0.02
-do- Accum	269.25	280.47	+15.61	0.02
Mngd Pfolio Inc	67.59	70.40†	+0.87	1.22
-do- Accum	71.18	74.13	+0.92	1.22
Int Spec Opps	235.17	244.97	+5.92	..
Pacific Grth	105.34	109.73	-1.39	0.49
UK General #	141.28	147.17	-1.58	2.39
-do- Accum #	157.56	164.12	-1.77	2.30
Japan	37.80	39.37	+0.21	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	112.61	116.69	+0.07	7.15
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.87	65.70	-0.13	6.26
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Eastern	258.10	271.70	+5.60	1.15
UK Growth	312.10	328.50	+0.70	1.22
UK Income	210.60	221.70†	-0.30	3.16

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	316.90	335.90	+0.40	1.62
-do- Income Dist	178.70	189.40†	-0.10	2.69
-do- Accum	609.20	645.70†	-0.40	2.69
Gilt & Fxd Int	44.65	46.91	-0.19	4.63
Growth Units	381.50	407.60	-1.00	1.42
Bond	193.30	203.30	-0.30	5.70
Intl Growth	263.40	280.20†	+5.70	0.26
North American	373.40	396.10	+1.50	..
Far East	179.50	192.00	-7.40	1.11
UK Smaller Cos	321.10	343.40	+5.10	0.65
European	145.90	155.90	+7.50	0.42
Japanese Growth	27.77	29.42†	+0.95	..
High Income	316.40	337.40†	-0.70	2.55
Eurogrowth Plus	254.26	270.51†	+13.32	0.89
Portfolio	108.08	114.98	-0.11	1.05
UK Index Inc	133.76	142.28	-0.57	3.32
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7465				
American & Gen	332.70	351.90†	+1.70	..
European Inc	162.80	172.80	+7.40	0.19
Smaller Cos (4-1)	131.00	139.40	-0.90	1.50
Growth	808.80	860.50	+2.80	1.54
Income & Growth #	675.20	718.30	+6.80	3.71
-do- Accum #	1075.00	1143.70	+10.90	3.71
Japan & Gen	46.85	49.60†	+0.12	..
Hallmark Gwth	1672.00	1742.00†	+6.00	1.32
-do- Accum	2112.00	2201.00	+7.60	1.32
Special Sits	187.10	199.10	+0.80	1.51
High Yield	2185.00	2232.00†	+16.00	3.26
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	127.69	135.85	+0.99	2.13
American Portfolio	186.66	197.67	+2.75	0.41
European Portfolio	225.85	248.10†	+9.19	0.27
High Income	56.35	59.27†	-0.15	6.28
Japanese Portfolio	45.32	47.98†	+0.19	..
Pacific Portfolio	112.03	120.47	-1.87	1.19
UK Equity	131.30	139.98†	+0.25	2.56
UK Equity & Bd	73.39	77.76	+0.06	4.89
UK Smlr Cos	64.53	69.02	+1.69	1.69
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1070.00	1089.18	+30.93	3.19
Inv Fd Acc	1111.81	1128.61	+32.14	..
Fxd Int Sec Inc	169.57	170.35	+0.64	7.51
Fxd Int Sec Acc	184.91	185.65	+0.69	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	1032.28	1047.86	+18.11	3.32
Investment Acc	5052.16	5128.52	+88.63	..
Fixed Int Inc	136.87	137.41	+0.32	7.57
Fixed Int Acc	283.12	284.26	+0.68	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	101.79	107.01	+1.28	5.76
Beck Bio-Tech	40.91	44.18	+0.96	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	237.62	252.79	+1.32	0.49
City Fin Assets	101.25	108.32†	+2.66	2.86
City Fin Intl	96.46	102.62†	+1.95	...
Friars Hse Cap	438.65	466.65	+9.72	2.04
Buckley Wrld Gth	138.74	148.12	..	..
Utilities Fd	91.71	93.64†	-1.14	3.20
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.59	53.66	-0.04	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	113.29	120.52	+0.82	..
Dragon Growth	43.29	46.29	-1.20	1.63
Equity High Inc #	133.92	141.71	-0.17	3.82
-do- Accum #	203.13	214.95	-0.25	3.82
Extra Income Inc	29.40	30.97†	-0.07	5.68
Extra Income Acc	35.03	36.90	-0.08	5.68
European Gwth	110.09	116.50	+5.90	..
Evergreen	42.39	45.33	+1.85	..
General Equity	155.68	164.50	-0.25	1.74
Japan Growth	30.87	32.84	-0.21	..
Pedigree Gwth	99.69	105.49	+0.84	1.15
Pad Sml Cos Inc	50.59	53.53†	+1.45	0.97
-do- Accum	54.77	57.96	+1.56	0.97
Retirement Inc #	38.81	41.29	+0.23	4.34
Special Sits	66.35	71.34	+0.57	1.96
UK & Overseas	78.54	83.11	+1.82	0.2
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	93.44	97.33	+0.64	2.87
Capital	119.57	124.55	+1.48	1.56
High Income	37.55	39.94	-0.08	6.34
Top 50	87.14	90.77	+0.06	1.58
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	268.18	279.38†	+2.30	3.63
Long Gilt	52.97	55.15†	-0.33	4.70
Monthly Inc Plus	62.70	65.32	-0.10	6.86
-do- Accum	77.68	80.92	-0.12	6.86
Preference Share	60.10	62.61†	+0.17	8.23
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	184.57	192.26†	+1.91	5.01
Managed Fund	94.12	98.05†	+0.46	2.16
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	59.12	61.58†	+1.34	1.38
-do- Accum	71.25	74.23†	+1.63	1.38
UK & General	140.30	146.05†	-0.15	1.86
-do- Accum	188.96	196.87†	-0.20	1.86
UK Growth	278.59	290.23†	-0.64	1.35
International Growth Funds				
Europa Growth	359.09	374.09†	+16.72	0.36
Far Eastern Gth	89.88	93.63†	-1.63	0.30
Global Bond	72.58	75.61†	+1.81	5.07
Japan Growth	80.92	84.30†	+0.32	..
North American Gth	353.60	368.37†	+2.59	..
Oriental Growth	54.24	56.51†	-1.71	0.86
Worldwide Growth	94.41	98.35†	+1.59	0.26
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.96	91.96†	+0.09	6.75
Homeowner Fund	115.40	122.78	+0.02	1.87
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	48.67	51.91	+0.78	2.49
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	226.70	241.20†	+6.30	1.68
Income	98.59	104.88	-0.35	3.17
European Growth	119.10	126.50	+3.70	0.10
Recovery	253.60	270.00†	+2.80	1.78
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1401.40	1421.60	..	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	108.10	114.70	+4.10	0.27
Fellowship Tst	141.80	150.80†	+1.00	0.89
Income #	390.70	415.10†	+0.60	3.35
-do- Accum #	1094.00	1163.00	+1.00	3.35
Smaller Cos	280.90	298.80	+6.30	0.61
-do- Accum	352.20	374.60	+7.80	0.61
Gilt Portfolio	138.90	147.70	+0.40	1.03
Mthly Inc Port #	115.90	123.20	+0.20	3.17
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	2008.00	2036.40	+14.90	0.45
UK Small Cos	2562.80	2576.50	+30.20	3.30
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	305.10	314.50†	+9.60	2.26
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline: 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smllr Cos	232.55	247.39	+1.44	..
Asian Growth	170.79	181.69	-6.67	0.30
Bond Income	111.60	115.78	-0.18	6.40
European	318.85	339.20	+16.92	0.40
European Priv	180.54	170.78	+7.00	0.70
European Special	243.85	259.42	+17.50	..
Gilt Yield	131.94	139.20	-0.59	8.10
Global Eqty Inc	155.86	165.46	+1.16	1.40
High Yield #	228.49	243.06†	-0.73	3.90
Japan	271.08	287.97	-1.35	..
Japanese Special	126.72	134.80	+0.55	..
Money Market	104.63	104.63†	+0.09	6.20
North American	167.59	178.11	+0.58	..
Smaller Cos	190.35	202.50	+2.69	0.80
Smlr Cos Div	79.87	84.98†	+1.70	4.20
Tomorrows Co Ex	1392.00	1412.00	+4.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	70.13	74.60	-0.08	0.69
UK Index Inc	487.60	490.05†	+0.24	2.47
Birchan Tst	134.80	144.70	+3.80	1.26
Global Income	275.25	292.81	+0.97	2.80
Formerly Thornton				
European	546.15	571.88	+29.79	0.30
Europe Bd	39.68	41.25	+1.03	7.20
Exempt	982.02	1021.77†	+1.86	1.80
Global Em Mkts	76.86	80.50†	-1.41	0.30
Japan Tst	57.81	60.58†	-0.68	..
Little Dragons	68.91	72.26†	-2.32	..
Nth Amer Gwth	452.82	473.60	+1.00	0.50
Oriental Income #	35.75	37.43	-0.59	3.40
Preference	157.05	164.45†	+0.27	7.80
Tiger	175.85	184.13†	-5.32	..
UK Blue Chip	121.37	127.08	-0.84	1.10
UK Growth	946.05	990.62	+1.21	1.30
UK High Yield #	164.36	172.10†	-0.58	3.90
UK Mid-Cap	491.80	514.97†	+11.25	1.20
UK Smlr Cos Div #	100.61	105.35	+1.25	5.50
UK Smlr Cos	162.75	170.41	+2.99	..
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 050 526				
Convertibles #	28.13	29.88	+0.14	4.68
Equity Income #	202.40	215.10	+1.00	2.98
European	96.53	102.10	+3.21	..
Financial	89.26	94.84	+0.65	1.05
UK Growth #	416.00	443.10	+7.70	1.97
High Dist #	250.50	265.70†	+1.80	3.20
International	492.30	520.40	+9.60	..
Intl Cap Inc	134.80	143.90†	+1.70	1.88
Latin American	37.05	39.37	-0.18	..
Mgd Gwth Port	113.60	118.60	+2.60	0.59
Pacific	64.92	68.98	-1.57	..
Pref High Inc	27.95	29.70†	+0.04	6.06
Tokyo	138.80	148.90	+2.00	..
UK Smaller Cos	333.80	354.70†	+7.00	0.99
Japan Sm Cos	230.10	243.70†	-4.50	...
Nth Amer	621.60	657.00	+2.80	..
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Growth Acc	367.40	396.70	+5.60	0.16
Income	723.10	781.20	+8.20	4.06
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7281				
Endurance Fd	276.60	288.40†	+6.10	0.98
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	149.86	157.75	+5.96	1.17
Ethical Tst	82.73	88.66	+0.59	0.86
Far Eastern	215.50	226.84	-2.39	1.61
High Income	201.60	212.21†	-3.14	3.33
UK Index Tracking	76.94	80.98	-0.47	2.08
Intl Growth	150.85	158.74	+1.88	1.35
North American	218.24	229.73	+2.80	1.26
Pelican	208.14	218.99†	-0.98	2.23
Smaller Cos	88.33	92.98	+1.74	1.72
Special Sits	108.45	114.16	+1.52	2.45
Tst of Inv Tsts	272.31	286.64	+2.70	1.47
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	195.62	207.77†	+2.30	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	70.78	74.57	+0.68	0.11
High Income #	51.45	54.55†	+0.09	9.17
Wan & Gl Opps	68.92	72.77	+0.67	..
Zero Preference	51.78	54.84	+0.08	...
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	143.30	152.40†	+0.70	1.71
Charities Eth	397.50	422.80†	+1.80	2.27
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.90
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond ‡	28.38		+0.62	4.79
Strategic Inc	31.64	33.05†	-0.05	5.10
Income Funds				
High Income	34.50	36.17†	+0.15	4.34
Income Plus #	200.10	212.80	+1.90	3.27
European Income	79.10	83.98	+3.28	1.06
Moneybuilder Gwth #	46.81	47.14	+0.18	2.01
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	28.30	30.06	-1.36	..
American	488.40	520.50	+2.90	...
Amer Spec Sits	260.10	276.80†	-0.80	

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Smaller Cos	18.33	19.46	+0.44	...
European	388.00	418.50	+19.30	0.26
European Opps	143.70	152.70†	+7.20	0.37
Global Pfo	48.95	52.06†	+1.42	0.31
UK Growth	182.70	194.30	-0.60	1.00
Growth & Inc #	266.80	283.70	+1.10	2.11
Intl PEP	69.710	74.130	+0.71	0.93
Japan Spec Sits	57.86	61.16	+0.82	...
Japan	143.40	151.80	+8.40	..
Managed Intl	495.20	526.90	+8.50	0.56
Moneybuilder Plus	88.36	88.99	+0.71	0.29
Recovery	81.280	86.430	+1.40	2.13
South E Asia	143.40	152.70	-4.00	1.37
Special Sits	1069.60	1138.00	+10.00	0.89
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	125.20	125.20	+0.13	6.90
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	188.80	190.50	+3.80	1.44
Flexibury Pd Inc #	117.50	118.50	+0.80	5.15
Cap Pfolio	218.40	219.90	+2.80	0.23
General Opps	187.20	188.40†	+3.60	2.82
Growth Inc	54.54	55.20†	..	1.00
Private Portfolio	659.70	664.90	+18.00	1.18
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	249.10	264.60	+16.00	..
High Income	24.48	25.66†	+0.05	6.87
UK Smlr Cos	38.49	41.17	+0.81	1.57
US Smaller Cos	598.10	632.70	-0.90	..
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	123.10	130.30	+0.70	..
-do- Accum	123.10	130.30	+0.70	..
Amer Smllr Cos	893.30	949.50	+9.20	..
-do- Accum	912.60	969.90	+9.30	..
Capital Tst	498.30	530.70†	+1.10	1.22
-do- Accum	745.00	792.60†	+1.70	1.22
Conti Smllr Cos	96.02	102.20	+4.90	..
-do- Accum	103.00	109.70	+5.30	..
Convertible	168.50	179.30	+1.80	5.69
-do- Accum	391.80	416.80	+4.00	5.69
Emerging Markets	60.29	64.52	-1.22	0.07
-do- Accum	60.91	65.07	-1.23	0.07
European	249.80	264.80	+10.40	..
-do- Accum	265.60	281.50	+11.00	..
Extra Income	549.80	584.70	+0.20	4.06
-do- Accum	915.40	973.80	+0.20	4.06
Financial	302.10	321.30†	+6.80	0.36
-do- Accum	324.80	345.40†	+7.00	0.36
Gilt Trust	64.07	66.07†	-0.15	6.72
-do- Accum	108.50	111.80†	-0.20	6.72
Health Fund Inc	307.20	326.80†	+3.20	..
-do- Accum	307.20	326.80†	+3.30	..
Income & Growth	318.80	339.30	..	3.82
-do- Accum	532.10	566.10	.	3.82
Intl Growth	543.90	578.80†	+8.70	..
-do- Accum	603.90	642.80†	+9.80	..
Japan & Gen	115.60	122.50	+1.40	..
-do- Accum	116.70	123.70	+1.40	..
Monthly Inc #	278.00	295.70†	-1.40	3.79
-do- Accum #	294.40	313.20†	-0.80	3.79
Managed Port Inc	151.40	159.40†	+1.50	1.12
-do- Accum	168.60	177.50†	+1.70	1.12
Quarterly Income #	73.69	78.84	+0.78	4.74
-do- Accum #	90.15	95.30	+0.95	4.74
UK Growth	89.62	95.34†	+0.96	1.17
-do- Accum	98.98	105.30†	+1.00	1.17
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	91.43	97.18	+0.36	.
FP Am Smlr Cos	244.29	260.40	-2.70	.
FP Asian Growth	155.50	165.80	-4.70	.
FP Australian	440.30	469.60	-3.80	.
FP Equity Dist	654.20	697.80†	+2.40	1.43
-do- Accum	1504.00	1604.00	+5.80	1.43
FP Euro Gth	505.20	538.80	+23.00	..
-do- Accum	553.50	590.30	+25.30	..
FP Intl Bond	58.58	62.00	+1.56	3.93
FP Intl Gth Dist	51.13	54.53	+0.92	..
-do- Accum	75.38	80.40	+1.36	..
FP Pac Basin Acc	163.50	174.40	-2.40	0.07
FP Income #	84.01	89.61	+1.08	3.86
-do- Accum #	312.80	333.60	+4.00	3.86
FP Jap Smllr Cos	161.50	172.20	+2.00	..
FP Monthly Dist #	96.04	102.40†	+0.70	4.45
FP Stlg Deposit	108.50	108.50†	+0.10	6.45
FP Tokyo	61.61	65.93	+0.06	..
FP UK Focus	61.05	65.12†	+0.05	1.00
FP UK Growth	289.40	308.60	+0.80	0.98
-do- Accum	600.40	640.40	+1.70	0.98
Stewardship Dist	554.50	591.40†	+5.70	1.20
-do- Accum	714.50	762.10	+7.40	1.20
Stwdship Inc Dist #	86.72	92.50†	+0.47	4.28
-do- Accum #	128.70	137.20	+0.70	4.28
Stwdship Intern	182.20	194.30	+2.30	...
-do- Accum	196.20	209.20	+2.50	..
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical Inc #	144.80	145.50	+0.30	2.39
Inst Ethical Ac #	148.40	149.10	+0.30	2.39
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	169.30	180.10†	+3.70	0.44
Oppn Cap Gth Acc	168.80	179.50	+3.40	..
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	148.90	158.30	+3.30	2.36
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	163.00	173.40	+3.50	2.36
Opn Co Gth Inc	154.70	164.50	+2.30	3.09
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	172.50	183.50	+2.60	3.09
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 108/7				
GANDA	422.50	444.70†	-0.60	1.65
Cash	48.32	50.06†	+0.05	6.37
Income Portfolio	95.19	100.30†	+0.45	2.26
GA Equity Gth	315.30	335.40	-2.50	0.81
GA European Gth	212.00	224.90†	+9.00	..
GA Japan Gth	73.29	77.54†	+0.21	..
GA Nth Amer Gth	354.40	373.10†	+1.50	..
GA Intl Gth	160.10	169.90†	+1.40	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	296.10	316.20	+3.40	0.11
European Gth	1157.00	1228.00	+63.00	0.14
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	69.41	73.39†	+2.11	2.53
-do- Accum	81.60	86.28	+2.47	2.53
High Yield #	55.77	58.92†	-0.26	6.65
-do- Accum #	68.28	72.14	-0.31	6.65
Income Inc	270.70	289.60	+2.00	2.95
-do- Accum	324.00	346.80	+2.40	2.95
Intl Growth	443.70	470.00	+3.20	1.76
Intl Income	135.20	143.00	+3.20	1.78
Japan Growth	382.10	405.50	-3.70	0.03
Orient Acc	130.20	138.90	-3.10	0.32
UK Blue Chip Inc	279.20	298.30	+0.90	1.02
UK Blue Chip Acc	506.90	541.50	+1.60	1.02
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	91.95	98.35	+1.27	1.18
US Growth	273.90	288.50	+2.60	..
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	86.02	91.68	+0.01	1.25
Practical Inv Inc #	159.57	170.66	+1.18	2.82
-do- Accum #	398.48	426.16	+2.98	2.82
UK Index	260.19	281.50	+0.16	2.25
UK Smaller Cos	302.08	323.06	+5.65	1.04
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.46	27.42†	-0.65	6.89
High Income	49.79	53.09†	-0.20	2.18
UK Growth & Inc	228.34	243.48	+0.14	1.95
Global Bond	28.08	29.10	+0.63	5.33
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	44.88	48.08†	-0.44	..
Global Managed	174.98	185.54†	+1.42	0.70
Global & Intl Res	80.09	85.66	+0.64	..
Global Utilities	218.84	233.12	-0.23	1.27
Overseas Funds				
American	281.94	298.19	-1.08	..
European	223.93	238.03	+9.88	0.31
Euro Sel Opps	376.10	393.83	+16.98	..
Amer Emerging	232.29	246.73	-0.30	..
Hong Kong	117.15	124.96	-3.49	2.96
Japan	137.44	145.35	+0.74	..
Pacific Growth	140.54	150.31	-4.50	0.81
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	157.82	157.82†	+0.17	6.77
Managed Equity	333.30	333.30†	+2.07	1.54
Long Term Bal	347.77	347.77†	+1.49	2.32
Med Term Bal	284.46	284.46†	-1.03	2.84
UK Equity	430.05	430.05†	-0.50	1.35
UK Emerging Cos	221.37	221.37	+4.09	1.71
American	470.62	470.62	-1.13	0.30
Japan	86.09	86.09	+0.15	..
European	574.33	574.33	+24.69	0.59
Index Linked Gilt	220.36	220.36	-0.28	2.37
Fixed Interest	212.98	212.98†	-1.10	6.07
Amer Emerges	523.32	523.32	+0.70	..
Pacific	137.26	137.26	-3.90	1.58
Emerging Mkts	132.59	132.59	-1.03	0.69
Index Strat Japan	90.70	90.70	-0.03	0.51
-do- Pacific Rim	116.05	116.05	-3.99	3.41
-do- Cont Europe	310.26	310.26	+13.64	1.86
Index Strat USA	298.16	298.16	+1.03	0.97
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	157.75	167.82	+1.05	..
Med Term Bal	136.31	145.01	-0.62	..
Long Term Bal	157.23	167.26	+0.71	..
UK Equity	201.40	214.25	-0.25	..
UK Emerging Cos	104.70	111.37	+2.06	..
American	219.08	233.04	-0.56	...
Japan	41.28	43.82	+0.07	...
European	237.31	252.46	+8.32	...
Fixed Interest	111.15	118.24	-0.50	..
Index Linked Gilt	98.52	104.81	-0.07	..
Deposit	96.09	102.22	+0.11	..
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWF Intl	190.33	200.35	+3.53	0.42
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc ‡	850.94		+8.78	..
-do- Accum ‡	1079.41		+7.69	..
European Gth Inc ‡	255.05		+8.33	0.23
Amalgam Inc	211.79	223.39	+6.72	..
N Amer Gwth Inc ‡	638.97	..	+6.30	..
Far East Gth Inc ‡	245.35		-6.92	0.52
-do- Accum ‡	255.97		-7.22	0.46
UK Dvlo Inc ‡	285.48		+3.64	0.99
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 328 9668				
European	909.20	971.30	+44.70	..
Gilt & Fixed	145.60	154.40	-0.50	4.94
Growth Equity	587.10	627.20	+2.70	0.74
Income Trust	215.00	229.60	+0.40	3.04
International	259.10	276.80	+4.20	..
Japan Trust	86.15	92.03	-0.02	..
Nth American	500.40	534.60†	-1.00	..
Pacific	341.80	365.10†	-11.20	0.59
Guardbill	840.80	898.20	+2.90	0.89
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2120				
European Bond	101.84	105.69	+2.76	4.22
Global High Inc	94.95	98.54†	+2.47	4.89
Stlg Bond Pflo	117.14	121.56	-0.56	5.54
Cntl Mgd Pflo	151.21	160.77†	+0.45	4.08
European Pflo	205.47	218.53	+10.08	..
World Mkts Pflo	98.24	104.45	-3.18	..
UK Eq Inc Pflo	205.93	220.02†	+1.76	2.40
-do- Accum	321.55	341.89	+2.76	2.40
UK Opps	609.90	648.50†	+9.60	1.59
-do- Accum	752.80	800.40	+11.80	1.59
St Wnc High Inc	171.60	174.47	+1.95	4.55
UK Emerg Cos	324.30	344.80†	-6.40	2.91
Intl UK Sm Co	411.70	419.07	+5.10	3.76
Glob Prv Tst	169.28	179.99	+3.91	0.95
-do- Accum	177.07	188.27	+4.11	0.95
Inc Share Ts	132.95	141.36	+0.25	6.44
HK & China Tst	70.58	75.04	-2.78	1.21
Blue Chip Pflo	353.06	375.40	+1.25	1.11
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	75.49	80.06	-0.25	2.32
Balanced Acc	83.38	88.42	-0.28	2.32
Growth	47.64	50.52†	-0.24	1.20
Growth Acc	50.35	53.40	-0.25	1.20
Income	44.33	47.01†	+0.12	3.04
Income Acc	49.71	52.71	+0.13	3.04
Accumulation Tst	40.17	43.52	-0.01	2.26
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Pmt Acc	64.62	68.56†	+1.10	2.22
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 464849 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	510.50	546.23	-5.22	...
Best of British	101.72	108.12†	-0.35	1.28
UK Smaller Cos	211.06	228.86	+3.38	..
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	437.37	465.63	-1.33	2.00
-do- Accum #	1287.32	1371.18	-3.92	2.08
High Income	476.73	509.62†	+3.39	3.05
Extra Income #	394.39	419.43	-1.40	4.47
Pref & Bond	59.30	62.45†	+0.15	6.67
International				
Ethical	172.50	184.48	-3.38	1.49
International	397.55	421.79†	+7.24	0.43
Global Bond	54.09	56.95	+0.93	5.25
Intl Port Inc	128.54	137.44	-1.88	..
Global Tech	342.11	363.29†	+11.52	

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	143.63	153.41	-5.56	1.02
European	1031.17	1094.01†	+51.67	..
European Income #	147.01	155.81	+4.21	2.36
Euro Smlr Cos	301.58	322.64†	+17.02	..
European Value	146.20	155.41†	+5.92	..
-do- Accum	157.89	167.84	+5.97	..
Japan Trust	128.59	127.63	+1.48	..
Japan Smlr Cos	106.81	113.38†	+1.79	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	165.71	176.54†	-3.47	
North American	479.38	508.02	+2.22	.
American Smaller	257.58	273.67†	+8.04	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 538059				
British	182.97	191.99†	-0.42	1.34
Capital	272.23	286.06	+2.26	0.87
Dollar	736.19	770.88	+1.49	..
Enterprise Gth	587.35	615.03	+1.66	0.69
European	444.27	465.21	+23.67	
Far East	186.27	197.14	-5.94	1.07
Financial	1674.81	1753.73†	-8.46	1.10
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.20	30.37†	-0.11	5.48
High Yield	161.79	169.42	+0.81	3.53
Income & Growth	236.59	247.64†	+0.57	2.50
International	387.52	405.78	+5.86	0.30
Japanese General	140.36	148.97	+1.53	..
Japan Tech	64.63	67.68	+0.69	..
Nat Resources	62.59	65.54†	-1.72	0.90
Portfolio	110.81	116.03†	+0.79	2.20
Special Sits	305.11	319.49	+2.93	1.47
Uk Emerging Cos	156.76	164.15	+3.78	0.85
US Smaller Cos	206.53	216.26	-0.84	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	925.36	987.50	+2.40	3.72
UK Growth	994.20	1060.1	.	1.23
High Income #	163.20	174.20†	+0.90	5.03
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	893.89	944.30†	-2.70	..
European Gwth	262.10	279.00	+9.90	.
Japan Gwth	207.50	220.60	+1.50	.
Japan Smlr Cos	17.90	19.10	+0.50	..
Asian	34.54	38.85	-1.42	0.55
Sing & Malay Gwth	37.65	40.18†	-2.89	..
Hong Kong Gwth	137.40	146.50	-5.60	1.45
Global Bond	21.32	22.46	+0.52	4.36
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	245.20	248.40	+0.10	2.17
Trade Index	161.50	165.80	+2.80	2.04
THE FOOTSIE FUND	99.09	99.59	-0.41	1.67
Index Funds-International				
American Index	443.90	446.10	-0.20	0.39
Eurotrack 100	319.10	320.70	+12.10	0.38
Japan Index	48.34	48.58	-0.11	0.31
Tiger Index	89.74	90.68	-5.85	2.79
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	60.32	63.00	+1.09	1.27
General Funds				
Managed Dist	115.30	120.40†	+1.10	0.86
Managed	120.50	125.80†	+1.50	0.86
Report Child Fnd	157.80	164.60†	+0.30	0.85
UK Growth	99.07	103.50†	+0.30	0.93
High Income Funds				
UK Emg Inc #	123.90	129.40	+1.00	4.23
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.48	30.48†	-0.07	7.19
UK Inc & Gwth	69.57	72.63†	+0.40	2.01
UK Income #	546.40	570.70†	+4.90	3.13
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	86.04	89.04	-0.31	..
Amer Smlr Cos	214.60	223.00	+0.90	
-do- Accum	216.80	225.40	+0.90	
Europe Gth	429.30	447.50	+19.20	...
-do- Accum	444.70	463.50	+19.80	..
Euro Smaller Cos	77.67	80.95	+3.02	..
French Growth	148.80	154.70	+6.60	0.41
-do- Accum	161.10	167.40	+7.10	0.41
H Kong & China	92.19	96.06	-3.48	1.18
Intl Growth	88.28	91.61	+1.36	0.47
-do- Accum	90.08	93.67	+1.38	0.47
Japan Gth	19.06	19.86	+0.01	.
-do- Accum	19.06	19.86	+0.01	.
Japan Smaller Cos	20.14	21.02	+0.44	
Glob Emg Mkts	93.61	97.77	-1.97	0.03
-do- Accum	94.27	98.45	-1.95	0.03
SE Asia	188.40	196.80	-8.80	1.02
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	51.01	52.59	+0.91	5.55
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 0870 606 6457 Dealing 0870 606 6467				
UK Income #	159.10	168.40†	+0.30	2.42
UK Growth	167.10	176.80†	+0.50	1.19
European Gwth	151.50	160.80	+6.30	0.08
Slater Growth	271.10	286.90	+4.50	0.70
New Japan	60.38	64.11	+1.17	.
Global Growth	118.80	125.80	+2.00	..
Monthly Inc #	98.63	103.39†	-0.03	7.32
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	175.80	186.70	-0.20	.
Income #	311.23	331.09	+2.59	3.62
UK Growth	121.18	128.90	+0.52	1.85
Intl Growth	110.10	117.12	+1.84	.
Ecology	142.73	151.82†	+2.61	0.49



Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	326.08	346.36	+10.27	0.38
Far Eastern	240.40	255.60	-8.50	
UK Special Sits	82.01	87.47†	+0.26	0.30
Fd of Inv Tsts	68.64	73.21	+0.41	0.37
High Income #	69.85	74.50†	+0.05	4.43
Financial Opps	74.14	79.07	-1.06	0.10
Growth & Income #	57.79	61.63	+0.17	2.43
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8800				
Bedpe Income	419.52	446.30†	+2.35	3.98
Exit Growth	144.32	153.53†	+4.08	0.44
Inc & Growth	162.91	169.46	-0.39	2.84
Smaller Cos	133.40	141.92†	+3.87	1.19
Ever Spec Sit Inc	74.55	79.31†	+0.65	1.62
Ever Spec Sit Acc	79.49	84.47†	+0.69	1.62
Pension Growth	61.33	65.24†	+0.40	1.58
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	646.70	686.20	+1.50	1.24
UK Inc/Gth #	671.10	709.70	-6.40	3.04
UK Income #	475.90	504.90†	+2.10	3.90
UK Income Acc #	492.60	522.60†	+10.20	3.90
UK Sm Cos	384.40	409.40	-0.20	1.59
Euro Gwth	256.10	270.80	+15.00	0.20
N Amer Gwth	171.00	180.80	+0.70	
Pacific Growth	6.50	6.90	-0.06	0.20
Emg Mkts Gwth	71.49	75.85	-1.35	...
Japan Growth	42.59	45.19	+0.70	..
Dealing: 01277 842526				
Gwth Port Inc	92.45	97.77†	+1.47	0.54
Gwth Port Acc	94.44	99.87†	+1.59	0.53
Inc Port Inc	85.60	90.52†	+1.12	3.61
Inc Port Acc	98.18	104.09†	+1.30	2.89
Wwide Port	70.63	74.69	+1.31	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 693512				
Equity Dist @	855.00	855.00†	-0.20	1.67
-do- Accum @	1617.00	1617.00†	..	1.67
Equity Income #	138.90	138.90†	-0.10	3.92
UK Tactical Allocatn @	85.31	85.31†	-0.48	5.51
European @	233.50	233.50†	+10.70	0.04
Far Eastern @	155.80	155.80	-3.40	
Fixed Interest @	60.73	60.73†	-0.12	6.93
Gilt @	100.10	100.10†	-0.40	5.78
Global Growth @	98.66	98.66	+1.71	0.06
Intl Bond @	49.30	49.30†	+1.13	4.77
Japanese @	49.91	49.91	+0.11	
North American @	326.60	326.00†	+1.30	0.07
Pacific Growth @	78.19	78.19†	-2.35	0.57
Pacific Index @	29.95	29.95†	-1.01	3.27
UK Index @	111.80	111.80†	+0.10	2.16
UK Recovery @	162.20	162.20†	+1.10	1.02
UK Smaller Cos @	217.40	217.40	+4.50	0.92
US Index @	129.50	129.50	+0.40	0.58
European Index @	149.20	149.20†	+6.40	0.59
Japan Index @	24.76	24.76	-0.02	0.04
Worldwide @	128.90	128.90†	+0.90	0.98
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 823				
Growth	81.18	86.82	-0.36	1.96
Income	93.88	100.40	+0.55	3.41
Far East	28.79	30.79†	-0.69	0.74
North American	182.80	194.40	+0.50	.
Global	108.70	116.00	+2.70	0.33
European	172.90	184.80	+11.30	0.25
Japan	60.58	64.56	+0.30	.
Intl Currency Bd	55.43	59.79†	+1.10	4.62
SE Asia	55.67	59.53†	-2.59	1.24
UK Cap Growth	148.40	158.70†	+1.90	1.24
Recovery Trust	118.50	126.70†	+2.10	2.06
Managed	88.52	92.53	+0.49	1.28
Cash	50.83	50.83	+0.05	6.64
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	588.90	626.50†	+1.10	1.55
-do- Accum	1442.00	1535.00	+3.00	1.55
Contl Euro Gth	125.40	133.10†	+8.60	0.05
-do- Accum	136.80	144.10	+9.30	0.05
Extra Inc #	417.30	444.00	+2.50	3.37
Extra Inc Acc #	1201.00	1278.00	-7.00	3.37
FTSE 100 Inc	184.80	196.70	-0.30	1.86
FTSE 100 Acc	197.00	209.60	-0.30	1.86
Commgn Gth	234.30	245.70†	+16.10	0.08
-do- Accum	245.70	258.70	+17.00	0.08
Growth Port	893.20	952.40	-4.30	0.33
-do- Accum	942.98	1004.00	-3.00	0.33
High Interest Inc	113.10	117.20	-0.10	6.43
High Interest Acc	130.90	135.40	-0.10	6.43
Hi Reserve Inc #	137.20	145.00	+0.50	4.60
Hi Reserve Acc #	160.20	170.50	+0.50	4.60
Income Inc #	798.80	849.60†	-6.10	3.06
Income Acc #	2378.00	2539.00	-17.00	3.06
Income Port	753.40	801.50†	-6.30	3.47
-do- Accum	895.20	953.90	-7.50	3.47
Japan Growth	72.24	76.86†	+0.64	..
-do- Accum	72.49	77.12	+0.64	..
Master Trust	88.42	94.07	-0.87	1.14
-do- Accum	103.80	110.50	+0.80	1.14
Millennium Acc	133.50	142.20	.	1.64
N American Gen	365.40	388.80	+1.50	0.50
-do- Accum	422.90	449.80	+1.70	0.50
Wan Sm Co Rec	251.10	267.20†	+1.70	...
-do- Accum	256.20	272.60	-1.70	.
Pacific Basin	156.50	166.50	-4.60	0.74
-do- Accum	168.79	179.50	-4.90	0.74
Safety First Acc	126.20	133.00	-0.10	1.08
Do until 2/10/98 ‡	118.15			
Small Cos Rec	646.20	688.30†	+12.00	1.74
-do- Accum	913.80	962.10	+17.00	1.74
UK Eq Gth	239.10	254.40	+0.40	1.67

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Eq Inc #	188.40	200.50†	+0.60	3.02
UK Growth	153.50	163.30	+0.20	1.26
-do- Accum	196.70	209.30	+6.30	1.26
Worldwide Gth	468.40	498.30	+7.80	0.27
-do- Accum	693.40	737.70	+11.70	0.27
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	155.78	167.06†	+0.07	2.00
Income	108.00	113.73	+0.28	3.40
International	91.55	98.22	+1.79	0.30
Tst of Inv Tsts	99.30	105.54†	+1.07	0.80
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	708.10	745.40	+1.60	0.57
-do- Accum	887.10	936.40	+1.90	0.57
Amer Recovery	863.40	913.00†	+19.50	0.24
-do- Accum	999.60	1057.00†	+22.60	0.24
Amer Smllr Cos	202.90	214.60	+0.20	
-do- Accum	207.30	219.30	+0.30	...
Australasian	195.70	206.90	-6.00	2.08
-do- Accum	252.70	267.10	-7.80	2.06
Blue Chip #	101.00	101.53	-0.89	3.10
-do- Accum #	312.30	313.70	-2.75	3.10
British Opps	78.70	83.20†	+1.70	2.26
-do- Accum	286.20	302.60†	+6.10	2.28
Capital	1277.70	1351.20	+11.80	2.28
-do- Accum	1578.00	1666.70	+23.30	2.26
Charifund #	1109.70	1114.80†	-2.00	4.37
-do- Accum #	6210.70	6272.90†	-11.30	4.37
Commodity	353.40	373.70	-11.60	1.38
-do- Accum	524.60	554.70	-17.30	1.38
Corporate Bond	29.60	29.70†	-0.15	6.00
Dividend	62.40	66.00	+0.50	3.67
-do- Accum	294.00	311.10	+2.60	3.67
Equity Income #	443.60	469.10	+5.50	4.30
-do- Accum #	657.20	694.90	+8.10	4.30
European	1014.70	1073.00	+44.90	0.36
-do- Accum	1309.70	1384.90	+57.90	0.36
Euro Dividend #	123.90	131.00	+3.10	2.76
-do- Accum #	163.80	173.20	+4.10	2.76
Euro Smlr Cos	82.00	86.70	+3.20	0.50
-do- Accum	82.30	87.00	+3.30	0.50
Extra Income #	659.80	697.70	-1.10	4.33
-do- Accum #	2355.82	2491.40	-3.60	4.33
Fund of Inv Tsts	901.80	953.70	+9.50	1.03
-do- Accum	1768.60	1870.40	+18.60	1.03
Gilt Income	70.79	70.91	-0.39	5.40
-do- Accum	232.38	232.77	-1.29	5.40
Gold	42.10	44.50	-2.50	0.54
-do- Accum	50.90	53.70	-3.20	0.54
High Interest	25.37	25.37	+0.02	7.24
Income #	47.30	50.00	-0.10	3.60
-do- Accum #	213.70	226.10	-0.60	3.60
Intl Growth	103.90	109.90	+1.50	0.70
-do- Accum	185.10	195.70	+2.60	0.70
International Inc #	143.80	152.10†	+2.30	3.66
-do- Accum #	241.40	255.40†	+3.90	3.66
Japan	23.10	24.40†	-0.10	0.02
-do- Accum	24.80	26.10†	+0.10	0.02
Japan Smlr Cos	84.20	88.80†	+1.00	0.08
-do- Accum	84.80	89.50†	+1.10	0.08
Managed Gwth @	37.40	33.65	+0.32	1.22
Managed Income #	38.49	39.76†	+0.15	3.85
Pension Ex	1530.90	1569.70†	+4.50	2.72
Recovery	66.40	70.20	+0.50	2.30
-do- Accum	118.00	124.80	+0.90	2.30
Smaller Cos	82.20	86.90	+1.70	1.76
-do- Accum	176.80	187.10	+3.90	1.76
Sth East Asia	240.00	253.80	-10.40	2.40
-do- Accum	325.90	344.70	-14.10	2.40
Trustee #	59.80	63.20	-0.30	4.05
-do- Accum #	271.60	287.40	-1.00	4.05
UK Equity #	93.50	98.90	-0.60	3.34
-do- Accum #	267.40	282.80	-1.80	3.34
UK Growth	1584.40	1675.50†	+9.50	1.39
-do- Accum	1806.60	1910.40†	+10.80	1.39
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	172.67	183.69†	+7.56	0.46
Intl Bond	62.37	65.51	+1.65	3.46
Intl Equity Growth	109.03	115.69	+1.21	0.48
N Amer Growth	199.77	211.82†	+1.98	0.44
Special Sits Growth	40.76	43.36†	+0.11	1.58
UK Growth	663.86	706.23†	-1.60	1.90
-do- Accum	943.36	1003.57	+2.28	1.90
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01920 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1626.80	1651.10†	+31.30	2.50
Income #	1353.80	1372.80	+28.60	3.70
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	217.90	223.00†	.	3
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	115.50	123.30	+2.20	
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	107.90	111.30†	-0.40	6.03
Investment Pflo	233.20	240.40	-0.30	1.78
-do- Accum	284.70	293.50	-0.20	1.78
UK Select Pflo	226.50	233.50	-1.60	1.49
-do- Accum	280.80	289.50	-2.00	1.49
UK 100 Cos	175.10	175.10	-1.98	1.52
-do- Accum	183.80	183.80	-2.00	1.52
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	82.97	88.27	+1.18	3.10
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	112.70	119.80	+0.50	3.52
European	161.30	171.20	+6.10	0.19
Income #	115.80	122.90†	-2.20	3.26
Nth American	128.80	134.60	-0.50	0.17
Far East	129.50	137.50	-4.90	..
Japan	49.61	52.66	+0.22	..
Emging Mkts	83.92	89.75	-2.13	0.65
Intl Growth	155.90	165.50†	+0.30	0.70
UK Growth	166.60	176.90	+0.80	1.54
UK Smlr Co	74.44	79.02†	+1.18	1.53
Asia Pacific	26.55	28.40	-1.30	0.11
Glob Gwth PEP	83.60	88.74	+0.79	0.55
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	123.70	131.60†	+1.40	.
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Income	682.77	726.35	-2.02	2.57
Global Inc	105.18	111.89	+1.21	2.77
Brit Leaders Inc	523.00	556.38	-0.05	1.66
Intl Leaders	323.14	343.77	+1.40	0.30
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	413.00	435.30	-0.20	..
-do- Accum	441.60	465.40	-0.20	..
American Opps	162.30	172.00	-0.80	...
-do- Accum	164.40	174.10	-0.80	..
Bal Port	122.90	130.30†	+0.90	2.28
-do- Accum	156.80	166.30†	+1.10	2.28
British Blue Chip	141.60	150.20†	+0.30	2.20
-do- Accum	188.60	200.10†	+0.50	2.20
Cash	100.30	100.30†	+0.10	7.02
-do- Accum *	160.20	160.20†	+0.10	7.02
Emerging Mkts	131.70	141.60	-0.60	0.22
-do- Accum	133.60	143.70	-0.50	0.22
European Growth	536.50	567.70	+26.40	0.09
-do- Accum	585.60	619.70	+28.90	0.09
General	803.60	853.50	+1.70	1.88
-do- Accum	1684.00	1789.00	+4.00	1.88
Global Bond	130.20	136.80†	+2.90	3.97
-do- Accum	185.10	194.40†	+4.00	3.97
Gold & General	140.00	159.90	-8.20	0.43
-do- Accum	145.50	156.00	-8.70	0.43
Govt Securities	105.00	108.20	-0.30	4.81
-do- Accum	236.60	244.00	-0.60	4.81
High Yield Bd	112.90	115.60	-0.40	5.47
-do- Accum	129.80	133.00	-0.40	5.47
Income	267.80	284.60†	-0.30	3.16
-do- Accum	471.30	500.80†	-0.40	3.16
Inc Portfolio #	143.10	151.50†	+0.20	4.85
-do- Accum #	165.90	175.80†	+0.30	4.85
Intl Opps	739.60	787.90	+16.50	0.64
-do- Accum	1009.00	1074.00	+22.00	0.64
Japan	127.40	135.20	+0.10	
-do- Accum	130.80	138.90	+0.20	
New Europe	354.90	376.60	+12.40	0.49
-do- Accum	374.30	389.30	+13.00	0.49
Pacific	65.06	69.40	-2.57	0.31
-do- Accum	70.18	74.86	-2.78	0.31
Recovery	613.30	654.20†	+6.20	1.42
-do- Accum	831.50	886.90†	+8.20	1.42
UK Smaller Cos	78.99	84.26	+1.41	1.40
-do- Accum	92.70	98.88	+1.64	1.40
Managed Gth	157.70	164.80	+1.40	1.54
Managed Inc	151.90	157.50	+0.50	3.50
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	88.77	92.95†	+0.51	1.99
-do- Accum	101.20	106.00†	+0.60	1.99
British Tst	152.70	159.90	-1.30	1.13
-do- Accum	189.60	198.50	-1.60	1.13
Corp Bond Inc	109.00	111.90†	-0.20	5.94
-do- Accum	121.00	125.40†	-0.20	5.94
Extra High Inc #	94.74	99.20†	+0.46	5.05
-do- Accum #	220.80	231.20†	+1.10	5.05
FTSE 100 Acc	108.30	113.40	-0.40	1.64
FTSE 100 Dist	98.75	103.48	-0.40	1.84
Gilt & Fxd Int	61.30	63.78	-0.33	5.61
-do- Accum	210.80	219.40	-1.10	5.61
High Yield #	328.50	344.00†	-4.50	4.83
-do- Accum #	988.10	1033.1	+7.00	4.83
Household Names	141.20	141.90	+0.10	1.12
Income #	464.90	486.80	+2.30	3.21
-do- Accum #	1148.	1202.	+6.00	3.21
Money Market UT	49.27	49.27†	+0.05	6.85
-do- Accum	89.70	89.70†	+0.09	6.65
Monthly Income	132.40	138.60†	+0.70	3.52
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	198.20	210.90	-0.90	1.57
European Growth	235.20	249.30	+17.00	.
Gilt & Fixed	119.70	126.80	-0.60	5.50
Income	157.30	167.30	+0.70	3.60
Japan Growth	31.54	33.43	-0.47	
Managed	110.70	117.80	+0.20	2.03
Money Market	104.40	110.70	+0.10	4.93
North American	156.40	167.90	+3.80	.
Midland PSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	179.70	191.20	-0.80	1.57
European Growth	220.40	233.60	+15.80	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	111.30	117.80	-0.50	5.50
Income	153.90	163.70	+0.70	3.60
Japan Growth	31.61	33.51	-0.46	
Managed	105.80	112.50	+0.20	2.03
Money Market	96.23	102.00	+0.10	4.93
North American	141.70	150.20	+3.50	.

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	178.20	189.60	-0.60	1.57
European Growth	215.10	229.00	-15.60	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	98.54	104.83	-0.40	5.66
Income	148.20	157.70	-0.50	3.12
Japan Growth	32.26	34.19	-0.47	
Managed	108.30	115.20	-0.29	2.04
Money Market	86.35	91.54	-0.09	4.93
North American	158.00	167.50	-3.50	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	675.50	714.70	-0.60	
European Gth Inc	833.40	883.10	+37.20	
-do- Accum	842.50	892.80	+37.60	
Intl Gwth	306.10	324.00†	-1.50	
UK Equity Inc	306.10	336.80†	+0.50	2.29
Do. Accum	441.30	467.90†	+1.10	2.29
UK Growth Inc	187.00	200.60	-0.10	2.51
-do- Accum	195.70	208.90	+0.10	2.51
UK Ind Trckr Inc	282.00	300.20	..	2.18
-do- Accum	360.60	384.00	..	2.18
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	427.50	451.80	-1.30	0.71
Japan Tracker	43.83	46.24†	-0.08	
Asian Tracker	125.80	135.60†	-5.50	0.49
Mngd Pfolio Inc	246.10	261.70	-4.40	1.36
Mngd Pfolio Acc	274.80	292.20	-4.80	1.36
Deposit Inc	100.45	100.45†	-0.15	6.71
Europa	327.30	349.80	+20.00	
Genesis	266.90	289.50†	+4.70	1.87
High Income	22.19	23.55†	-0.06	10.50
Japan Growth	71.47	76.18	-0.55	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 080 933				
Americas Growth	86.88	88.93	-0.37	
Equity Income #	147.20	151.00		3.22
European	133.30	135.90	+6.40	...
Smaller Cos	112.70	118.10†	-1.50	0.95
W'wide Eqty	98.60	100.70	-1.29	
Global Bond	42.02	42.47†	+0.85	4.25
UK Growth	152.10	156.30†	-0.10	2.07
Pacific Growth	69.79	71.61	-1.35	2.32
Japan Growth	80.29	81.53	-0.32	
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	53.09	†	-0.37	3.31
Portfolio Inc A ‡	52.83	†	-0.37	3.31
Gilt Acc A ‡	51.20	†	-0.25	6.09
Gilt Inc A ‡	50.66	†	-0.25	6.09
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 251 010				
Area Equity	219.48	232.49	-3.40	1.56
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	175.00	194.20	-1.70	0.01
European Dist	252.50	265.80	+9.50	0.13
Far East Dist	119.50	125.63	-3.32	0.25
Global Care Dist	119.30	125.60	+0.40	0.06
Oseas Dist	1267.80	1334.50†	-3.50	0.18
-do- Accum	1649.70	1736.50	-4.80	0.18
UK Dist	614.40	646.76	-3.00	1.10
-do- Accum	1287.30	1355.00	-6.40	1.10
UK Extra Inc Dist	128.70	135.50	-0.30	2.02
Wwide Dist	140.60	148.00†	-0.80	0.17
Wwide Inc Dist	109.00	114.70†	+0.20	1.46
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 8147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9188				
Europe Inc	130.30	137.52	+5.45	0.17
Fund of Funds Inc	87.93	92.76	-1.00	0.53
North America Inc	92.71	97.95†	-0.45	..
Uk Equity Grth Inc	101.97	107.62†	-0.56	1.05
-do- Accum	113.73	120.08	-1.09	1.06
UK General Inc	94.48	99.72†	-0.54	1.05
-do- Accum	107.71	113.68	-0.62	1.03
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	50.15	52.52†	-3.33	5.37
UK Income Inc	95.02	100.23†	-0.61	1.33
UK Smlr Cos Inc	162.88	171.91†	-3.75	0.65
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	78.20	83.19	-2.34	.
-do- Accum	78.81	83.84	-2.36	.
Intl Bond	139.76	145.31	-2.16	4.46
Cash Income	50.05	50.06†	-0.28	6.99
-do- Accum	74.53	74.53†	-2.02	6.69
Challenger	104.87	109.27	-1.21	1.37
Distributor	152.57	162.30†	-0.52	1.78
European	103.09	109.56	+4.16	
Extl H. Gilt	103.26	103.32	-0.11	2.25
Foundation	153.52	163.31†	-0.32	0.77
Managed Inc	259.17	319.26	-0.29	0.96
Managed Acc	306.50	326.06	-0.73	0.67
Growth Inc	197.18	209.76†	-2.50	0.75
Growth Acc	208.80	220.09†	-2.60	0.75
Higher Income Inc	49.67	52.83†	-0.46	3.77
-do- Accum	64.12	68.21†	-0.59	3.77
High Yield Bond #	101.03	102.48†	-0.14	7.05
Income	411.69	438.15†	-5.65	1.79
Intnatnl	194.64	207.74	-1.57	0.90
Intl Gwth	50.14	53.33†	-3.61	
Japan	23.09	24.56	-0.03	
Oriental Inc	109.90	116.85	-3.96	1.36
-do- Accum	112.31	120.11	-4.05	0.36
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	63.19	66.77†	+0.41	4.84
UK Growth	157.20	166.30	-4.22	2.16
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 254				
Master Trust	180.78	190.29	-1.73	1.10
UK Equity	246.44	259.41	-1.44	1.93
UK Equity Income #	219.91	231.43	-2.22	3.59
UK Smaller Cos	196.50	206.84	+4.65	1.10
UK Equity Growth	214.96	226.27†	-1.95	0.66
UK Index Trckg	246.92	259.65	-0.43	1.34
Intl Index Trckg	219.33	230.43	-2.54	0.51
International	352.72	371.29†	+4.74	1.02
European	420.55	442.69	+17.49	0.04
Pan European	264.53	278.56	+8.65	0.68
Nth American	347.70	366.00†	-1.21	0.24
N Amer Smlr Cos	391.78	412.40	-3.31	
Japanese	65.27	68.70	+0.51	1.38
Pacific	156.23	164.45	-2.21	1.66
South East Asian	163.39	171.99	-5.81	2.04
Sterling Bond	111.18	117.03†	-0.54	5.74
Intl Bond	124.75	131.32	+2.63	4.24
Gilt & Convertible	121.96	128.38	-1.09	5.52
Property	97.98	103.14	-0.08	4.67
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	575.20	614.50†	+25.20	0.05
-do- Accum	613.00	654.90†	+27.00	0.05
Japan Inc	70.74	74.91	+0.13	..
Nth American Inc	236.60	252.20	+0.40	..
Worldwide Inc	244.00	259.00	-3.40	
HK & China Inc	132.70	142.10	-6.20	1.36
Swiss Equities Inc	148.30	158.00†	+8.20	..
Wwide Bond Inc	69.40	73.32	+1.54	4.89
Emging Asia Inc	106.00	114.10	-7.60	2.24
-do- Accum	106.80	114.90	-7.70	2.24
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.06	50.06†	-0.05	6.70
Thailand Inc	41.12	44.89	-2.75	2.50
Int Mngd PEP Inc	99.50	106.30	-0.90	0.27
Latin Amr Emg Inc	80.74	86.71	-1.50	1.30
UK All Sh Gth Inc	102.60	103.40		1.62
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Bine	101.10	107.50	-1.90	0.54
Global Portfolio	88.67	94.83	-1.54	...
Way Global Red	77.77	82.73†	-2.12	0.20
Marsh Global Grt	72.88	77.29†	-0.06	
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	160.60	172.00†	-0.60	0.54
Temple Equity Inc	59.95	64.39	-0.28	0.19
Henley Growth	182.90	194.60	-1.30	0.45
IPS Portfolio Inc	124.00	131.20	+1.70	
UFC Growth	81.20	86.85	+1.67	0.92
Cranfield Port of Fds	58.87	62.45		0.12
Pyg Int Equity	94.34	108.90	+1.11	0.05
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	405.20	431.00	+0.70	1.17
-do- Accum	913.50	971.80	+1.70	1.17
Growth	261.70	275.40†	-0.90	1.50
Income	382.90	407.30†	-1.80	2.86
Intl Equity	354.80	377.40	+8.20	0.33
-do- Accum	398.50	423.90	+9.30	0.33
Equity Income #	104.20	110.70	+0.80	4.06
Equity Growth	138.20	147.00	+0.30	1.00
New Europe	168.40	179.10	+7.00	0.09
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	900.03	960.89	+6.65	0.31
-do- Accum	909.33	970.63	+6.72	0.31
Income #	668.37	713.72†	-0.48	3.14
Wwide Recovery	597.50	638.40	+6.43	0.22
Amer Growth Inc	417.77	443.87	+4.39	0.01
-do- Accum	417.77	443.87	+4.39	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	353.23	377.79	+6.23	0.05
Far Estn Grth Inc	217.89	233.15	-4.38	1.38
-do- Accum	222.38	237.84	-4.47	1.38
Euro Gwth Inc	316.10	337.31	+13.01	0.01
-do- Accum	317.20	338.48	+13.05	0.01
UK Growth Inc	166.65	178.01	-0.22	1.96
-do- Accum	186.65	199.38	-0.24	1.96
High Income #	173.98	185.74	-0.40	3.59
Jap Gwth Inc	130.80	139.72	+1.54	0.09
-do- Accum	130.80	139.72	+1.54	0.09
PEP Bond	68.57	71.66	+0.06	6.86
PEP Growth	199.78	213.17	+2.10	0.45
Asian Str Mkts Inc	83.27	89.06	-3.10	0.01
-do- Accum	84.02	89.87	-3.12	0.01
Amer Smlr Co Inc	277.86	295.93	+2.47	0.01
-do- Accum	277.86	295.93	+2.47	0.01
Global Bond	55.49	58.78	+0.99	4.46
UK Smaller Cos Inc	139.84	149.57	+3.73	1.68
-do- Accum	151.47	162.01	+4.04	1.68
Lat Am Gwth Inc	40.48	43.25†	-0.77	0.44
-do- Accum	41.14	43.94	-0.74	0.44
World Inc PEP #	54.60	57.78	+0.26	3.27
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3927				
American	185.89	197.75†	+2.46	
European	154.12	163.96	+8.24	.
Global	59.03	62.80	-0.61	
Pacific	38.25	40.54†	-1.13	
UK Inc & Gth	111.66	118.81	+1.68	1.06
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 6990				
Asia	39.58	41.99†	-1.17	..
Emerg Mkts	43.70	46.37	-0.22	0.37
Euro Fund	65.05	69.87	+3.65	..
Fund of Funds	245.00	259.90	+4.80	0.02
High Income #	65.97	69.44†	+0.49	5.01
Performance	60.86	64.57†	+1.20	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
Special Sits	263.80	282.20	-2.40	0.34
Dividend	149.90	159.20	+0.30	3.03
Int Gth & Inc	319.80	339.80	-2.50	..
UK & Exp	69.39	74.21	-0.08	0.16
Fund of Funds	92.28	98.70†	+1.29	
Prem Bal Growth	84.78	88.27	+1.78	0.08
Enterprise	135.60	142.70	+1.10	1.65
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	230.09	239.31	+0.89	2.03
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 836600				
Managed Tst	55.26	57.26	+0.36	1.75
Cash Haven Inc	100.83	101.32†	-1.13	6.25
Cash Haven Acc	127.58	128.20	+0.12	6.25
Dist Trust Inc	132.06	136.85†	+0.26	4.23
Dist Trust Acc	159.68	165.47	+0.32	4.23
Global Growth	133.89	142.44	-0.93	1.24
Equity Inc	117.94	125.47†	-0.57	3.53
Equity	1254.81	1334.90†	+1.97	1.41
European	450.35	466.68	+25.76	0.19
High Income	117.85	125.37	+0.81	4.04
Intl Gth	266.66	283.68	+4.86	0.82
Intl Sm Co	111.14	118.23†	+2.05	0.82
Japanese	116.71	120.94	..	
Mgd Income Tst #	37.83	37.58	-0.09	7.05
Nth Amer	356.03	368.35†	+3.38	0.57
Pacific Mkts	76.76	81.62	-2.35	1.86
Premier Inc	51.14	53.22†	-0.14	5.89
Sm Cos	138.24	147.06†	+3.22	1.50
Spec Sits	173.35	184.41	-0.89	1.53
UK Growth	213.01	226.61	+0.27	1.43
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 558 8800				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	117.98	125.38	+0.71	2.85
Investment Trust	154.23	163.90	+0.87	0.31
UK Smaller Cos	142.98	151.94	+8.17	1.68
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	496.10	526.30†	+2.00	2.10
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	34.23	35.74	-1.18	.

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	46.66	50.95	-0.02	5.38
Emerging Mkts	47.34	50.06	-0.37	
Europe	99.56	104.60	-5.06	.
Global Fixed Inc #	50.30	53.53	+0.94	4.42
Japan	28.69	29.96	-0.39	
North America	95.62	100.92	-1.15	
UK	94.95	99.12	+0.75	
UK Equity Inc #	83.72	88.57	-1.00	2.73
UK Fixed Int #	56.53	59.00	-0.16	6.17
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	68.95	71.55	-1.11	.
Pep Inc Port #	68.34	70.71	-0.78	2.55
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Amer Opps ‡	35.16	†	-0.99	
Asia Pacific ‡	33.75	†	-1.06	0.64
Europe ‡	60.62	†	-2.44	.
Japan ‡	38.66	†	-0.05	..
Latin America ‡	40.82	†	-0.42	
North America ‡	56.87	†	+0.25	
UK Eq Income #	58.36	†	-0.20	3.80
UK Major Cos ‡	59.78	†	-0.16	0.51
UK Smaller Cos ‡	64.65	†	-0.54	0.81
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1635.00	1720.00	-2.00	2.12
Equity Income #	161.90	171.30	-0.10	3.49
European	295.90	302.50	-14.00	
High Inc Bond	52.03	52.11†	-0.04	5.42
Portfolio	153.60	162.50†	-1.40	0.92
UK Index Trckg	286.10	304.80†	+0.20	2.46
UK Leading Cos	122.50	129.60	-0.50	1.63
UK Smaller Cos	166.90	176.60	+2.50	0.99
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	237.80	252.90†	-0.40	2.59
Intl Cautionary	73.20	77.82	-0.34	3.70
Intl Growth	102.80	108.70	-1.30	
Managed	249.80	268.60	-3.10	0.42
Pacific Basin	59.38	63.07	-1.27	0.61
United States	199.00	210.50	+1.70	0.25
Sun Alliance Trusts				
Far East	124.30	131.40	-1.40	1.25
North America	288.00	308.00	-2.20	
Wwide Bond	56.12	58.98†	-1.27	4.41
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	250.60	267.50	-0.50	0.31
European Growth	274.10	291.35	-14.00	0.76
Far East Growth	94.47	100.50	-3.30	2.78
Japan Growth	81.50	86.62†	-1.15	0.65
Special Sits	289.80	309.20†	-5.00	1.73
UK Growth	148.40	157.80	-0.70	2.13
Intl Growth	367.60	391.10†	-5.50	1.56
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	110.00	116.40	-3.30	0.99
Gt Euro Prog Inc	674.10	713.30	-22.30	0.54
-do- Accum	1061.00	1128.00	-36.00	0.54
Growth Inc	216.00	228.60	-5.20	0.33
-do- Accum	222.40	235.30	-5.30	0.33
International Inc	581.30	615.10	-18.20	0.37
-do- Accum	606.30	653.20	-25.30	0.37
Nth Am & Intl Inc	573.30	606.70†	-6.60	0.22
UK Gen Prog Inc	376.60	398.70		0.94
-do- Accum	443.30	469.10		0.94
UK High Inc Inc	209.70	221.90†	+0.70	3.41
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	64.82	68.70		0.75
European Gwth	155.30	165.43	-7.90	1.00
Global Bd	60.73	64.13	-1.08	5.00
Japan	43.36	45.74		
UK Gwth	129.77	138.05	-2.70	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smllr Cos	199.60	212.50	-1.60	
Cash	146.70	146.70	-0.10	6.83
China Dragon	54.26	57.72†	-1.37	0.44
Commodity	118.00	125.50	-1.10	.
Emerging Mkts	40.61	43.20	-0.85	0.39
European Gwth	390.70	415.60	+16.80	
Euro Smllr Cos	106.60	113.60	+5.70	
Extra Income #	73.28	75.94†	-0.02	4.74
Far Eastern	69.56	74.03	-1.61	
FE Sm Cos	35.66	37.94	-0.14	0.29
Financial Secs	501.00	533.00		0.71
Gold & Exploration	40.33	42.90	-1.89	
Growth	637.30	640.50	+0.30	0.40
High Income	53.98	53.98†	-0.05	7.09
Inc Bond	159.60	168.70	-4.00	4.99
IIU	300.30	319.50†	-3.40	0.49
Japan Growth	113.50	120.60	-0.20	
Japan Smaller	97.01	103.20†	-2.10	
Korea	17.19	18.29	-1.99	
Latin America	50.17	53.37	-0.81	0.37
Masterfund	84.02	84.44	-0.63	0.74
Premier Eq Gth	253.40	269.60	-1.10	0.79
Premier Eq Inc #	528.50	562.20	-0.90	3.24
SE Asia	28.87	30.71†	-1.12	0.75
Southern Africa	55.68	59.13	-0.78	0.72
UK & O'seas	262.00	278.70	-0.90	0.64
UK Eqty Gth	124.40	132.30†	+0.30	0.83
UK Eqty Inc #	374.40	398.30	+0.90	3.26
UK Gth & Inc #	447.20	475.70	+1.60	2.16
UK Sm Cos	79.65	84.95	+1.41	0.18
US Growth	323.50	344.00	+2.10	
New Europe ‡	58.45		+0.53	..
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Cln: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	504.23	532.52†	+5.10	0.46
-do- Accum	562.04	593.57†	+5.68	0.46
European Gwth	143.13	151.67	+4.82	0.26
Euro Smlr Cos	162.03	172.16	+7.07	0.02
-do- Accum	164.37	174.65	+7.17	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	82.73	88.24	-2.10	0.16
-do- Accum	84.41	90.03	-2.15	0.16
Gilt & Fxd Int #	58.12	61.23	-0.32	7.00
Global Bond #	45.44	46.95	+0.73	5.85
-do- Accum #	58.49	60.43	+0.93	5.85
Global Emer Mkts	49.00	52.26†	-1.34	0.01
-do- Accum	49.04	52.31†	-1.34	0.01
Income #	586.96	626.09	-2.20	3.82
-do- Accum #	2098.63	2238.56	+7.88	3.82
Japan Smlr Cos	203.03	216.56	+3.86	.
-do- Accum	203.44	216.99	+3.86	...
Japan Enterprise	45.54	48.57†	+0.21	..
Pacific Gwth	94.32	100.60	-4.30	1.08
-do- Accum	98.98	105.57	-4.51	1.08
Portfolio	119.99	127.66	-0.24	1.61
-do- Accum	136.38	145.09	-0.28	1.61
Seoul	14.02	14.95	-1.72	0.72
-do- Accum	14.02	14.95	-1.72	0.72
Strategic Inc	127.22	135.48	+0.39	1.78
Strategic Acc	131.28	139.80	+0.41	1.78
Tokyo	98.18	104.72	+0.37	..
-do- Accum	99.17	105.77	+0.30	..
UK Enterprise	470.30	501.65	-1.41	1.70
-do- Accum	599.87	639.85	-1.80	1.70
UK Equity	430.49	459.18	-2.16	1.85
-do- Accum	895.92	955.64	-4.50	1.85
UK Smaller Cos	469.00	500.26	+6.54	0.77
-do- Accum	563.38	600.94	+7.86	0.77
US Smlr Cos	382.92	407.59†	+1.22	..
-do- Accum	382.92	407.59†	+1.22	..
Institutional Funds				
European	468.86	485.91	+22.34	0.79
-do- Accum	536.73	556.22	+25.57	0.79
Euro Smlr Cos	51.32	53.41	+2.80	0.70
-do- Accum	56.09	58.38	+3.07	0.70
Global Equity Inc	118.06	122.39†	+2.03	0.61
Japan Smlr Cos	20.34	21.18	+0.45	0.25
-do- Accum	20.57	21.43	+0.46	0.25
Mngd Balanced	279.58	291.22	+1.45	2.69
-do- Accum	341.38	355.60	+1.78	2.69
Overseas Equity	251.59	261.30	+6.87	0.80
-do- Accum	257.33	277.64	+7.29	0.80
Gwth Growth	145.86	151.82	+5.56	0.69
-do- Accum	156.11	162.49	+5.95	0.69
Pacific	164.19	171.03†	-6.86	2.73
-do- Accum	187.12	194.91†	-7.82	2.73
Recovery	3239.76	3374.75	+49.30	2.46
-do- Accum	3700.70	3854.90	+56.32	2.46
UK Index	270.14	281.39	-0.26	2.42
-do- Accum	361.30	376.35	-0.36	2.42
UK Small Cos	186.54	194.31	+4.18	2.23
-do- Accum	213.38	222.27	+4.78	2.23
US Smlr Cos	88.96	92.39†	+0.05	0.34
-do- Accum	92.12	95.67†	+0.05	0.34
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	86.00	90.95	-0.03	1.49
Equity Trust	114.35	120.93	-0.10	1.87
Equity Strategy	117.20	123.94	+0.53	0.98
European Opps	168.30	177.98	+7.16	0.31
UK Smaller Cos	98.31	103.96	+1.86	0.89
Maximum Inc	99.48	102.07	+0.06	5.96
Japanese	44.84	47.42	-0.04	
Asia Pacific	78.02	82.51	-2.98	1.53
American	200.20	211.45	+2.53	0.82
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.96	35.96	+0.03	6.95
UK Eq Gwth Inc	86.77	92.33	-0.39	2.01
-do- Accum	120.66	128.39	-0.55	2.01
Intl Income	389.11	413.96†	+3.09	1.17
-do- Accum	698.99	743.64†	+5.55	1.17
European	169.75	180.35	+6.90	0.79
Japan	46.51	49.26	+0.24	..
American	152.89	161.58	+0.49	0.64
Far East Tact	58.55	62.45	-1.92	2.07
Ethical Inc	52.98	56.66	+0.59	1.38
-do- Accum	62.39	66.73	+0.70	1.38
Uk Blue Chip Inc	57.97	61.75	-0.27	1.98
-do- Accum	72.31	77.03	-0.34	1.98
UK Equity Inc	80.92	84.98†	+0.16	3.06
-do- Accum	93.60	99.93†	+0.25	3.06
UK Global Inc	68.55	72.91	+0.39	1.33
-do- Accum	76.45	81.31	+0.44	1.33
Wwide Tact	114.36	121.78†	-1.08	0.92
Europe Tactical	125.58	134.19	+6.38	0.47
Technology	221.12	234.72	+0.68	0.31
Dist Inc	31.91	33.86	-0.03	4.92
-do- Accum	34.37	36.46	-0.04	4.92
Uk Eq Inc Inc	26.85	28.35		6.80
-do- Accum	28.84	31.52	+0.01	6.80
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	733.90	780.49	+0.30	1.53
American	501.90	531.08	+2.90	0.15
Pacific	291.20	310.60	-3.40	0.36
European	997.80	1060.60	+46.30	0.98
Worldwide	109.70	116.70	+1.00	0.26
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	477.50	507.90		1.51
-do- Accum	646.80	688.00		1.51
UK Str Co Eq Inc	323.00	343.60	+7.60	1.59
-do- Accum	404.40	430.20	+9.60	1.59
Select Opprtnty Inc	115.70	123.70†	+0.60	1.33
Income Plus Inc	124.60	132.50†	+0.60	3.06
European Inc	686.30	731.40†	+41.30	0.57
-do- Accum	798.50	848.50	+47.90	0.57
Far Eastern Inc	113.20	120.40†	-3.90	1.35
-do- Accum	133.00	141.40	-4.70	1.35
Japanese Inc	42.09	44.77†	+0.04	
Nth American Inc	507.20	538.30	+3.20	...
-do- Accum	561.80	596.30	+3.40	
Intl Growth Inc	273.40	290.60	+8.10	0.37
Wwide Venture Inc	121.70	129.30†	+2.40	0.33
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	621.40	656.50	+2.90	1.65
-do- Accum	980.00	1035.00	+4.00	1.65
UK High Inc #	295.70	312.40	+0.20	2.91
-do- Accum #	478.50	505.59	+0.30	2.91
Europe Inc	778.90	822.90	+32.20	0.29
-do- Accum	830.00	876.90	+34.30	0.29
Nth Amer Inc	441.20	466.10	-2.80	
Global Inc	328.30	346.90	+4.00	0.16
Global Acc	356.40	376.60	+4.30	0.16
UK Spec Sits Inc	174.80	184.40	+0.80	1.39
South East Asia	125.00	132.10	-5.50	1.89
Cash Trust Inc	102.30	102.30	+0.10	6.88
UK Smlr Cos Inc	149.70	158.20	+1.80	1.65
-do- Accum	161.20	170.30	+1.90	1.65
Intl Bond Inc	89.83	94.33	+1.94	3.58
International Sm	102.20	108.20	+1.70	
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	256.40	269.90	+12.40	0.73
Nth American	197.00	207.40	+2.00	...
Intl Bond & Conv	137.60	144.80	+1.30	5.52
Pooled Pension	324.50	349.90	+2.50	1.82
Smaller Cos	158.90	167.30†	+2.80	0.82
UK General #	234.80	247.30	+0.30	1.74
Far Eastern	60.42	63.60	-1.82	0.93
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Continental	148.40	156.40	+7.50	0.60
Global Gwth	105.60	111.40	+1.90	0.50

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Tst Port	74.53	79.70	-1.42	1.80
Managed	1752.13	1831.57	-15.64	2.10
Pref Inc #	117.10	124.50†	-0.10	6.60
Smaller Cos	341.10	362.80	+9.60	0.80
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	123.04	...	-1.01	3.85
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.76		-0.11	7.00
Corporate Inc ‡	107.65		-0.51	6.00
Tal Pan ‡	75.83		-2.52	
Aztec ‡	81.51		-1.19	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	191.11	...	-2.35	..
European ‡	259.98		-7.66	
Global Bond ‡	90.13		+1.02	6.25
Samurai ‡	39.50			
UK Growth ‡	142.94		-0.08	2.85
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	110.34	..	+1.49	2.55
Investment Trust ‡	141.62		+2.30	2.59
The Football Fd ‡	82.57		+0.07	.
Reserve Roll Up ‡	105.26		+0.04	
Dmark Reserve ‡	102.07		+1.95	3.72
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	633.70	659.60	-7.60	.
Capital	196.20	207.60	-0.40	1.01
Cash	100.82	100.82	+0.10	6.71
European	242.10	256.20	-9.80	0.08
Far Eastern	126.30	133.60	-1.80	..
Growth	239.80	253.70	-0.10	0.86
Income #	190.60	201.70	+1.80	4.59
Magnum	201.00	212.60	+0.30	1.12
Smlr Secs	811.60	858.70†	+17.70	.
Thoroughbred	235.60	249.20†	+0.40	0.99
SOCIETE GENERALE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dealing Desk 0171 615 0062				
UK Growth Acc	98.14	104.40	.	1.44
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 093				
Cranfld Primrce	70.11	72.27	-0.35	6.50
Ethical	107.20	114.60	-2.10	0.84
European Growth	129.60	137.40	+4.20	..
Income #	80.84	85.45	-0.76	3.77
Intl Growth	135.30	143.40	+0.60	0.12
Managed	127.50	135.10	+1.60	0.18
UK Growth	96.84	103.30	-0.30	1.08
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	58.19	59.49	+0.47	1.19
Global Advtg Acc	65.18	65.51	+0.51	1.19
Income Advtg Inc	50.75	51.01	-0.06	2.52
Income Advtg Acc	61.91	62.22	-0.08	2.52
UK Equity Gth Acc	154.30	163.60	+2.60	0.85
Premier Inc Inc	54.77	56.69	-0.08	5.94
Premier Inc Acc	63.77	66.01	-0.09	5.94
Managed Acc	81.83	86.75	+1.02	1.44
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	58.65	62.17†	+0.04	3.25
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	82.21	87.15†	-0.15	3.25
UK Ethical	53.94	55.83	+0.67	0.95
UK Smlr Cos Acc	72.81	77.18	+1.36	0.48
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	118.10	125.50†	+0.20	1.09
UK Equity Gen Inc	82.56	87.75†	+0.10	1.09
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	34.77	36.77†	-0.09	5.68
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	422.60	458.60	+3.50	2.08
Nth American Acc	82.38	87.53	-0.18	..
Pacific Basin	30.40	32.30	-0.70	1.46
European Acc	87.62	93.10	+3.79	0.01
Japan Acc	19.84	21.09	-0.33	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NCS)	5.973	6.346		1.76
US Eqts (US$)	4.958	5.249	+0.14	0.62
Far East Eqts (yen)	229.20	243.40	-0.70	
FT Europe	243.16	257.30	+12.07	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	4.558	4.842	+0.14	.
FT Japan (yen)	124.00	131.00	-0.70	
FT Asia Exlap (US$)	2.112	2.243	-0.06	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	688.50	727.40	+5.80	.
British #	1814.30	1919.50	+15.40	2.02
Emging Mkts	165.20	175.70	-2.50	0.84
Euro Gwth Inc	154.50	163.40	+4.20	...
Euro Small Co	80.10	85.29	+3.85	..
Japan	85.51	90.89	+0.83	.
Asia Pacific	324.60	345.70	-4.70	1.67
-do- Accum	353.20	376.10	-5.10	1.67
Inv Trust Acc	388.10	411.40	+4.00	0.88
Mngd Equity	272.80	288.70	+1.30	1.70
Mngd Cash	95.90	95.90	+0.10	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Asia Pacific	15.00	15.96	-0.46	0.98
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	106.73	113.54	+0.03	6.03
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	121.23	128.97	+0.04	6.03
European	83.70	89.04	+3.44	0.28
Japan	25.79	27.44	+0.06	0.01
Managed Assets	189.56	202.74	+1.23	1.58
North American	67.16	71.45	+0.58	0.12
Smlr Co's Inc	48.00	51.06†	+0.83	1.31
Smlr Co's Acc	53.88	57.32	+1.03	1.31
UK Growth Inc	93.58	99.55	-0.20	1.33
UK Growth Acc	108.83	115.78	-0.26	1.33
Extra Income #	64.61	69.10	-0.25	3.56
Worldwide Grth	54.80	58.38	+0.75	0.23
For Sun Life see AXA Sun Life Fd Mngrs Ltd				
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	451.92	478.23	+1.32	1.00
-do- Accum	497.77	526.74	+1.44	1.00
Brit Growth	179.16	189.58†	-0.05	1.21
-do- Accum	227.76	241.01†	-0.06	1.21
European	204.14	216.02	+11.56	1.36
-do- Accum	218.04	230.73	+12.34	1.36
Extra Income #	305.52	323.30	+1.80	3.46
-do- Accum #	591.02	625.41	+3.09	3.46
Smaller Cos	114.11	120.76	+2.61	0.72
-do- Accum	132.04	139.73	+3.02	0.72
General	518.31	548.48	+0.47	1.40
-do- Accum	1132.68	1198.60	+1.01	1.40
Premier Income	58.41	58.77†	-0.09	5.25
-do- Accum	154.26	160.71†	-0.23	5.25
Income #	552.86	585.03	+1.38	3.21
-do- Accum #	1339.00	1416.93	+3.36	3.21
Pacific	251.30	265.92	-5.38	0.51
-do- Accum	264.05	279.42	-5.65	0.51
International	838.00	886.77†	+13.30	0.20
-do- Accum	1108.49	1173.01†	+17.80	0.20
Nat Resources	134.02	141.82†	-3.92	0.05
Scot Opps	189.19	200.20	+1.31	1.47
-do- Accum	252.16	266.85	+1.74	1.47
Environmental Inv	128.26	133.63	-0.71	0.67
Selector	104.40	110.48†	+0.81	1.30
-do- Accum	123.80	131.00†	+0.96	1.30
High Income #	98.75	104.49	+0.44	3.30
-do- Accum #	142.07	150.34	+0.63	3.30
Intl Income	66.16	70.01†	+1.34	3.80
-do- Accum	93.12	98.54†	+1.89	3.80
Selector Income	87.25	92.34†	+0.43	3.30
-do- Accum	116.33	123.10†	+0.57	3.30
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0800 435810				
British	593.15	624.37	+0.37	1.80
European	133.74	140.05	+5.02	0.76
TEMPLETON INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Templeton Funds (OEIC)				
Alpha Shares				
Growth Acc ‡	342.58		+1.74	3.85
Growth Inc ‡	288.73		+1.46	3.85
Balanced Acc ‡	236.48		+0.85	5.10
Balanced Inc ‡	227.73		+0.68	5.10
Value Acc ‡	217.03		+4.30	2.94
Value Inc ‡	189.96		+3.76	2.94
Beta Shares (250,000 minimum)				
Growth Acc ‡	992.43		+5.13	3.85
Growth Inc ‡	992.43		+5.13	3.85
Balanced Acc ‡	1002.76		+3.08	5.10
Balanced Inc ‡	1002.76		+3.08	5.10
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 829 0662				
Capital	131.10	139.60	-0.80	0.50
International	92.32	98.07	+4.40	.
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 0683000 Inter Serv: 0800 0684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Funds				
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	56.45	59.10	+0.74	0.89
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	55.95	58.58	+0.37	2.83
Caut Mg Gth Acc	55.50	58.11	+0.01	4.14
Managed Income	55.23	57.83†	-0.10	3.66
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	53.52	..	-0.07	6.27
UK Equity Inc #	61.36	..	-0.19	3.51
UK Growth ‡	61.19	..	-0.09	1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	56.52	..	-0.13	1.57
UK Money Secs ‡	50.58	..	+0.05	7.12
UK Monthly Inc #	58.60	..	-0.36	3.14
UK Select Gwth ‡	62.01	..†	+0.14	1.27
UK Smaller Cos ‡	62.35	..	+1.67	1.35
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	55.79		+0.24	...
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	58.20		+0.33	.
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	59.08		+0.46	
Asia Growth ‡	32.63		-0.73	0.67
Emg Mkt Bd Fd #	54.07	..†	+0.65	7.12
European Growth ‡	70.17		+3.22	
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	67.85		+3.26	.
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	72.35		+3.62	
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	31.62		-0.46	0.08
Global Bond ‡	52.25		+0.93	6.33
Gth Sel Gth Acc ‡	53.74		+0.82	.
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	34.70		+0.12	..
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	53.17		+1.20	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	52.81		-0.44	..
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500,000 min).				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	61.42		-0.19	3.51
UK Growth ‡	61.24		-0.08	1.86
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	56.55		-0.14	2.10
UK Inst Gwth ‡	61.25		-0.08	2.20
UK Oseas Eng ‡	58.64		+0.11	1.39
UK Select Gwth ‡	62.11	.†	+0.17	1.81
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	62.98		+1.67	1.91
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	55.98		+0.25	
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	58.41		+0.33	..
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	59.20		+0.47	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	32.76		-0.73	1.13
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	70.39		+3.24	0.43
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	68.07		+3.38	0.29
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	72.50		+3.63	0.22
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	31.71		-0.48	0.54
Global Bond ‡	52.38		+0.91	6.33
Japan Growth Acc ‡	34.82		+0.12	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	53.28		+1.21	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	52.82		-0.44	0.40
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	481.53	512.27	-1.40	3.32
UK Equity Gwth	518.03	551.10	-2.12	1.30
European	295.44	314.30†	+11.73	0.19
Nth American	128.26	136.45	+2.18	0.03
Far Eastern	56.14	59.72	-0.87	0.35
Money	77.06	77.06	+0.08	6.55
Fixed Interest #	93.56	99.31	-0.26	7.10
Index Linked Gilt	85.63	90.82	-0.68	1.21
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	113.43	113.43†	-0.65	5.68
Pens Growth	148.72	148.72	-0.18	
Pens Inc Protect	118.11	118.11	-0.86	
UK Index Tracking @	189.30	189.30†	-0.23	1.60
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0131 831 7455				
Australasian Gold	14.38	15.14†	...	
Pacific Basin	23.39	24.62		
Global Bond (US$)	0.9754	1.0160		
Penny Share	45.61	48.81	...	
Japan Smlr Cos	27.22	28.65		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	132.50	133.90†		
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8270	0.8356	+0.00	
Gilt Income	53.26	54.09	-0.06	6.00
Gilt Growth	90.94	92.36	-0.22	.
Sterling Bond	53.31	54.20	-0.11	5.80
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	76.10	80.78	+1.23	1.49
UK Stockmarket	147.70	157.00	-0.90	1.82
Corporate Bd Inc	51.69	51.81	-0.25	5.26
Do Accum	57.44	57.57	-0.28	5.26

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return), † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge



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When pensions become part of the settlement

WEEKEND MONEY

M&G COMEBACK? 57

Has the change of course succeeded?



Make the most of pocket money

Clare Stewart finds some sound advice for young savers

We may come into this world with nothing, but as soon as we arrive, proud relations line the pockets of our size 0-3 months clothes. About 40 per cent of babies receive £100 or so when they are born and one in ten is given £400 or more, says a survey by Flemings, the fund manager. While one in ten parents keeps the money and others spend it on baby kit, two thirds invest it for the child's future. Follow our guide to making the most of these investments.

Q Where can children invest savings and pocket money?

A Banks and building societies offer a wide range of children's savings accounts, often with a range of attractive free gifts which the young find irresistible. But the rates are often unimpressive. It is worth comparing them with those available on general savings accounts where no minimum age is specified. For example, there are many children among the customers at the new supermarket banks for rates of 6 to 7 per cent.

Top rates among children's accounts, according to Moneyfacts, the savings information group, include Nationwide Building Society's Smart 2 Save account, at 7.5 per cent gross, paid half yearly on a minimum deposit of £1. Birmingham Midshires Smartstart account pays 7.25 per cent annually with a minimum deposit of £25 while Britannia Building Society also pays 7.5 per cent with a minimum deposit of £1 in its Firstsaver.

The Nationwide Smart 2 Save offers a range of goodies including an educational board game about the living world. Savers also help endangered species.

You may find better rates at some of the smaller, local building societies though for some you will need to show you live in the area. Stroud & Swindon pays 7 per cent on its Money Box account, while Melton Mowbray Building Society has a 30-day Sunny Bond paying 7.9 per cent on a minimum deposit of £250.

Q Do children need to pay tax on their savings?

A Children cannot open a tax exempt special savings account (Tessa) but otherwise are treated in the same way as adults for tax purposes in that they have a personal allowance of £4,195 (1998-1999 tax year). This is the amount of income that you can have tax-free each year from any source. They also have a capital gains tax allowance of £6,800.

Interest on pocket money or money earned from paper rounds is unlikely to go over that limit, so there will be no tax due. Interest on most accounts will be paid with basic-rate tax deducted, so if your child is a non-taxpayer, complete form R85, to reclaim the tax.

However, interest earned on money given by a child's parent is treated differently. If the gift earns more than £100 gross income a year, the whole of the income is taxed as the parent's income.

A tax change introduced by the Chancellor will affect the income of young savers with money in a unit or investment trust. Currently the 20 per cent tax deducted from any income distributed by the trust can be reclaimed. From next April, this will no longer be permitted.

Q Are there tax-free savings schemes just for children?

A National Savings offers Children's Bonus Bonds which can be bought by those over 16 for those under 16 years. The current issue pays 6 per cent so long as the cash stays invested for five years. The minimum investment is £25, the maximum £1,000. A parent or guardian with £100 to spare can buy Premium Bonds for an under 16. A holding of £100 in bonds gives you a one in 9.87 million chance at the £1 million jackpot but a one in 190 chance of winning any prize of £50 to the jackpot.

Q What about longer-term investments for children?

A If you plan to give money to a godchild or grandchild and want your gift to become a sizeable sum by the time they are 18, then putting money in a bank account is unlikely to produce the best returns. Instead have a look at unit and investment trusts. Given the historic outperformance of equities over the long term, putting money into the stock market via a unit or investment trust is likely to show a healthy return, particularly over ten or 15 years.

A flexible option might be a savings plan that allows a regular amount to be invested into the trust. The investment can be controlled by the adult, but put in a child's name it will treated as the child's for tax purposes.

For a period of five to ten years, Lucinda Hines, investment research manager at Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, suggests a UK or international trust. Perpetual's UK growth trust has a minimum saving of £20 a month with 5.25 per cent initial and 1.5 per cent annual fees. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe likes Alliance Trust and Foreign & Colonial, which he sees as reasonably conservative, good quality trusts.

If you are looking to invest say £100-£200 a month, then try something more adventurous such as a European investment trust. Mr Bolland says if he were to make a punt for 20 years, he would put £50 a month into a Chinese fund, which although volatile for the next ten years, should give exciting returns thereafter.

Q Are friendly societies a good home for children's savings?

A You can invest a maximum of £25 a month or £270 a year in a friendly society bond for a tax-free payout. Tunbridge Wells Equitable has a Baby Bond. But friendly society charges can be high.

Q How much money can be given to children tax-free?

A Under current rules, each parent can give £3,000 a year to a child each tax year. It is also possible to utilise a previous year's allowance if you did not give any money or only part of the potential £3,000. In addition it is possible to give up to £250 a year to dependants and friends, though not as well as a £3,000 gift. It is limited to one £250 gift per recipient.

It is possible to give larger amounts if you can show the Inland Revenue that the money is surplus to your requirements and that making the donation does not affect your own standard of living.

Money can also be given at the time of marriage, with the parents, for example, able to give £5,000 to a son or daughter, grandparents £2,500 and other people, £1,000.

Additional research by Jacqui Spray

ARTHUR POLLACK/BOSTON HERALD



Babes with babes: when fashion stars like Isaac Mizrahi design with babies in mind, the fashion industry is accepting, like the financial world, children as a big market

THE TOP CHILDREN'S ACCOUNTS

	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate	Int paid	Telephone Number
HIGH STREET SELECTION						
Birmingham Midshires BS	Smartstart	Instant	£25	7.25%	Yly	0645 720721
Birmingham Midshires BS	Smartstart	Instant	£500	7.50%	Yly	0645 720721
Bradford & Bingley BS	Kidzone	Instant	£10	6.50%	Yly	01274 555332
Britannia BS	Firstsaver	Instant	£1	7.50%	Yly	0800 132304
Britannia BS	Firstsaver	Instant	£500	7.60%	Yly	0800 132304
Coventry BS	Interest Zonia*	Instant	£1	7.75%	Yly	0345 665522
Nationwide BS	Smart 2 Save	Instant	£1	7.50%	½Yly	0500 302010
NatWest	Savings Bond	5 Year	£1,000	7.25%F	OM	0800 505050
Woolwich	Woolwich for Kids	Instant	£1	6.00%	Yly	0800 222200
OTHERS						
Stroud & Swindon BS	Money Box	Instant	£5	7.00%	Yly	0345 413853
Furness BS	Young Savers	Instant	£500	7.60%	½Yly	0800 220568
Harpenden BS	18 Club	Age 18	£5	7.30%	½Yly	01582 765411
Market Harborough BS	MH16*	Instant	£50	7.50%	Yly	01858 463244
Melton Mowbray BS	Sunny Bond	30 Day	£250	7.90%	Yly	0870 600 1043
Saffron Walden BS	Ladybird*	Instant	£1	7.50%	Yly	01799 522211
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
	Childrens Bond Issue J	5 Year	£25	6.00%F	OE	

Notes: * Available to local residents only, F-Fixed rate (all other rates variable), OE-On encashment.
All rates subject to change without notice. Please check all rates and terms before investing. All rates are shown gross but tax at the basic rate will be deducted from Building Society and Bank interest payments unless the investor is registered as a non-taxpayer.
Source: MoneyFacts

MONEY INFORMATION BOX

■ THE AITC (Association of Investment Trust Companies) publishes a fact sheet *Investing for Children* which is available free from its mailing office on 0171-431 5222. Alternatively write to the AITC at Durrant House, 8-13 Chiswell Street, London EC1 4YY.

■ THE Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autif) also produces a fact sheet entitled *Saving for Children*. For a free copy call its 24-hour information service on 0181-207 1361, or you may write to the association at 65 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TD.

■ Fleming Investment Trust Management Ltd has published a free independently written guide also entitled *Saving for Children*. It explains the mechanics of how to invest for children, and clarifies the position on income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax. You may obtain the booklet by telephoning freephone 0500-500 161.

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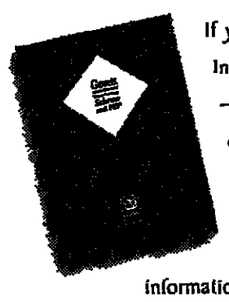
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*Source: Reuters Hindsight, 22/04/98

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Some good advice on choosing advisers

Windfalls, inherited money and even lottery winnings are becoming more and more common. But who should you turn to if you need advice on investing a lump sum, and how much will that advice cost?

Under current legislation there are two types of financial advisers — those who are agents of a company and can only sell that company's products, and independent financial advisers who are obliged to scan the entire financial marketplace.

Finding an independent financial adviser is relatively easy. One useful number is for an organisation called IFA Promotion (0117-971 1177), which will give a list of three independent advisers in the caller's area. It says it is aware how many people are nervous about approaching a financial adviser, and to make things easier it sends all callers a booklet on the level of charges they can expect, plus a series of questions to put. It offers callers a voucher giving them a free half-hour session with an adviser. Ann-Marie Martyn, IFA Promotion's chief executive, said: "Most callers want to know how much is it going to cost. They don't really know what is going to happen, so we see it as our job to reassure them. A lot of people are concerned about the security of their money, and we explain to them about the financial safety net, the Investors' Compensation Scheme, which protects the first £48,000 of anybody's investments, and the role of the regulators."

Ms Martyn recommends that new investors should telephone about three advisers before deciding which one to visit. "Advice isn't just about the level of charges," she said. "You need to be confident about your adviser because your investments are a long-term thing and it is important that you can have an ongoing relationship year after year."

The vast majority of financial advice is still arranged on a commission basis, which means that an investor will not pay upfront for advice. Instead, the adviser will earn commission from the sale of a product, which can often eat up the premiums paid for up to a year.

The typical commission on life insurance is all of the first year's premiums, while an endowment mortgage pays the adviser around 75 per cent of the first year's premiums. Biggest commissions come from the sale of a pension, where the salesman can expect to pick up around half of the money paid in during the first year — which can add up to £1,000 or more. Much lower commission is paid on Peps, typically around 3 per cent, equal to £180 from a £6,000 investment, plus an annual fee of around 0.5 per cent.

Consumer groups have long argued that investors should seek out an adviser who charges a flat fee rather than a commission-based adviser, but it should not be seen as the simple route to cheap advice. The fee for arranging a pension is typically between £500 and £600, while a regular annual review of your finances can cost upwards of £1,000. Hourly rates with an adviser can range from £80 to £150.

There is also a sting from VAT. When a life insurance company pays commission to a salesman, there is no VAT charge. But if a client opts for a fee instead of commission, the Inland Revenue levies an extra 17.5 per cent.

Weekend Money asked three different firms of IFAs to set out the costs for drawing up a financial plan for a 25-year-old who is in the lucky position of wondering what to do with a £25,000 windfall. The individual is in work but has not yet joined the company pension scheme and is not yet a homeowner.

Maddison Monetary Management (0800-0742 2333) says it would expect to spend around six hours drawing up a financial plan for the client, including one-and-a-half hours in a face-to-face interview. The client typically receives a 40-page report, detailing financial strengths and weaknesses, such as shortfalls in pension provision or areas of overinsurance. It also includes a strategy document containing specific product recommendations.

Its hourly fee is £100, although it says the vast majority of clients opt for a £425 full financial plan, which sets off any commission earned against the fee. Mark Howard, managing director, said: "Our most expensive plan is the most popular. People know they get what they pay for."

Plan Insure (01625-129 217) says it would hold an initial one-hour meeting at no cost and will let the client choose whether advice should cost a flat fee or be on a commission basis. Malcolm Mitchell, a Plan Insure director, said: "If the client chose to take the fee-based advice route, then on average we would expect to charge for three hours' work, which would be £300 plus VAT. Or the client could pay a fee on the capital invested, of 2 per cent on sums up to £100,000, when all commissions earned would be reinvested or reimbursed. Alternatively, if the client decided that he did not want to pay a fee, then any commission generated would be retained by ourselves."

Mr Mitchell added that the advice on the £25,000 lump sum would centre around a number of areas, including house purchase, pension provision and investments such as unit trusts. Other areas to be considered would be health insurance and critical illness cover.

Bob Young, of Wilcox Young (01703-229 464), said the first hour's consultation fee is free because "any adviser needs to find out the client's objectives".

"A full report would cost about £120 plus VAT, which can be discounted against commission earned. For most people, that wipes out the fee."

PATRICK COLLINSON

Counting the cost of long-term care

Residential care bills can often cause great worry to patients and relatives. **Marianne Curphey** reports

Older people and their families are confused over what contribution they must make towards long-term care, according to research published this week. Some of the half-million elderly people in long-term residential or private nursing homes are spending their savings unnecessarily because of confusion over the rules on care costs. Weekend Money looks at the funding available and at what stage you will need to contribute to your care.

Q What help is available from the State?

A At present, the State will fund part of your long-term care bill depending on your assets. Older people with more than £16,000 have to pay for their own care, which can cost up to £500 a week. When your assets are assessed the value of your home is taken into account. If you have less than £10,000 in savings or your home, the state will pay for your long-term care. If you have assets of £10,000-£16,000, you pay costs on a sliding scale.

Q What is likely to happen to care in the future?

A The Government has set up a royal commission to look into long-term care provision over the next decade and beyond. It was set up at the end of last year and has been given a year to investigate how the bill for residential care can be met.

Q Why are people confused about the financial assistance they can claim?

A Research supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that much confusion comes from inadequate or incorrect information from local councils, which assess the amount of financial help for which you qualify. As a result, some families of elderly residents continued to pay after their relative's savings have fallen below the threshold.

Many had wrongly assumed that local authority officials, responsible for the means test, would notify them once the capital limits had been reached. However, in practice, the council staff did not understand the system. Much confusion arose over benefits for elderly couples with only one partner in long-term care.

Q So what are the rules for spouses in these particular circumstances?

A At present, a couple's assets should be divided into two. The person in the home then draws on his or her proportion of the savings. However, many couples told the survey that their local council had instructed them to continue contributing from joint savings until the maximum amount for a single person had been reached.

The survey found couples were being given widely differing information on contribution levels depending on which council they dealt with. Some even received conflicting information from social workers at the same council.

Q What do you do if you feel you are paying too much?

A Age Concern, the charity, has been lobbying hard for clarification of the rules and has a fact sheet giving details of the local authority charging process for residential and nursing home care (see below). A spokesman for Age Concern said: "It is essential that national criteria for funding are set out so that people know where they stand."

Q What solutions have been put forward to fund long-term care provision in the future?

A Under the Labour Government, thinking on long-term care is radically different from the "partnership" scheme proposed by the Conservatives. Stephen Dorrell, the Conservative Health Secretary, unveiled a long-term care scheme based on a US model. Under his proposals, anyone with assets and savings of more than £16,000, including their home, would have had the option of buying an insurance policy to "ring-fence" and protect their capital from means-testing. Mr Dorrell's draft Bill, which never became law, proposed that for every £1 of private insurance a person bought, the local authority would disregard £1.50 worth of assets when it means-tested applicants for care.

The new Labour Government abandoned these proposals because it believed that they would have helped only a very small section of the population, predominantly the wealthier members of the middle class.

Q What alternative to the current system in place is the royal commission likely to recommend?

A Observers now believe that the royal commission will favour a new generation of home income plans. In theory, these will use the equity that you have locked up in your own home to provide an income to pay for your residential care fees.

Home income plans work on the principle that the most valuable asset owned by an elderly person is their own home, but the capital is effectively locked up. They are designed to unlock this equity to provide income to pay for repairs or help with bills, or in the case of long-term care, to top up the fees charged by residential nursing homes.

■ Age Concern's *Factsheet 10* is available from Age Concern Information Line, Linhay House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7UP.



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The myth of share buybacks

PERSONAL INVESTOR



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Share buybacks create a gulf between private investors and the City. For finance directors and institutional investors these are now an important part of financial management and cash returns respectively. For private investors, they are often a myth.

This is scarcely a minor issue. Quoted companies have bought or proposed buying in more than £10 billion of their equity this year, equivalent to a quarter's dividend income. One fund manager recently wrote that shares could no longer be valued on dividends, because the return from buybacks was such a big part of the equation.

For the most part, however, private investors see little of this. Occasionally, as in Iceland, Reuters and some utilities, the capital payout takes a form that includes all shareholders equally. In the majority of true buybacks, shares are just bought from pension funds. This once had a huge tax break. Buybacks count as distributions, so pension funds could claim back imputed tax. That loophole was stopped. But eventually advance corporation tax was abolished too, making buybacks easier.

In theory, the benefit to all investors is now equal. The purpose is to boost earnings per share by cutting the share capital. So the value of all remaining shares should rise pro rata. But fund managers like getting the cash. And under proposals issued by the Department of Trade and Industry this week, the gain to earnings per share would often be far less clear-cut.

In response to long-running pleas from top companies, the DTI suggests that the UK should adopt American rules that allow shares bought in to be kept "in treasury" and resold if and when required. Retaining buybacks of up to 10 per cent of capital is permitted under EU directives but even in the UK, the most liberal EU regime, buyback shares currently have to be cancelled.

Whitehall previously feared, on the basis of experience, that directors of lesser companies might get up to no good, given wider powers to vary their share capital. Tougher insider trading laws and Stock Exchange policing have supposedly made this less likely, so we can afford to give companies more cost-saving flexibility. The DTI suggests safeguards, such as disclosure and suspending votes on treasury shares.

Some of us still fear that the flexibility to buy and sell modest amounts of shares will tempt more directors to manipulate the market to make the price of their options lower when granted and the returns higher when cashed. It appears to happen now. Why should it not happen more if it is easier?

If a company chooses to retain shares bought back for resale in the market, however, how can the buyback boost earnings per share? The shares still exist and may reappear at any moment. This seems a case where companies cannot have their cake and eat it.

Buybacks could become a sneaky way to store up more shares to issue without giving existing shareholders the right of first refusal. This objection can be overcome only if the board agrees to sell treasury shares only at full market price, eschewing discounted bulk sales.

The greatest virtue of the proposal, however, should be to allow companies to smoothe their share price by selling a few when prices are high and buying when low. Most simply cannot be trusted to get this right, but there is an exception.

Investment trust boards know exactly the asset value of their companies. They could use buybacks more easily to help their shares when the discount to assets widens, if necessary feeding a few back in the rarer case of a premium. But no. The trouble is that buybacks, being a distribution, must come from distributable reserves, not from capital. The EU directive is clear. But most investment trusts have few reserves built up from retained earnings, because they have to pay out nearly all their income in dividends. Back to the drawing board chaps.

Tailor-made finance for school fees

HIT OR MISS

Parents of pupils at a number of leading public schools recently threatened to withhold a proportion of the school fees. Their anger had been roused by the schools' demands that pupils should leave immediately after finishing their A levels, and not see out the remaining two weeks of the best days of their lives lounging about doing relatively little. Refusing to pay two weeks' fees may sound a small gesture, until you realise it can add up to £700-£800.

According to the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis), about £3 billion is spent on school fees in the UK each year, and the average cost of educating two children to A level is about £70,000.

NatWest has just launched a new education fees loan to help parents to meet the cost. It offers, says NatWest, a tailor-made repayment plan so it is possible to spread the costs over up to 20 years and take the money in chunks when fees fall due.

The minimum loan is £5,000, there is no upper limit, and interest rates currently range from 9.75 per cent to 17 per cent. On top of this, borrowers who are not also customers with a NatWest Advantage account will pay a 2.5 per cent arrangement fee.

The interest rates cannot be fixed for any period, and are quoted either as variable or managed, which means a rate set by the bank rather than reflecting the base rate.

For a NatWest Advantage customer who does not have to pay a fee and who borrows £10,000 over five years, taking the money in three instalments, the cost would be £3,803.92, assuming a rate of 9.75 per cent throughout. The £10,000 capital must then be repaid at the end of the loan.

Taking out a loan for school fees may be the only option for some, though financial advisers say it is always better to think about school fees well in advance. "It is best to start saving even before children are born, so that you can build up a large fund," said Justin Modray at Chase de Vere, the independent financial adviser. Regular savings schemes, ten-year plans, Peps and Tessas can all be used.



You need a Spice Girl's income for the fees at some schools

But if you cannot draw on such a sum or meet all school fees out of income, finance such as NatWest's education fees loan has the advantage of flexibility, allowing you to borrow over a longer period than other loan packages Mr Modray said.

A rate of 9.75 per cent with a 2.5 per cent arrangement fee on top is competitive with an average of 12-14 per cent APR for loans in general, he added. But it is worth shopping around, particularly for short-term borrowings, to compare rates on other loans.

Other advisers are less impressed with the NatWest offer. "Anything over the mortgage rate, especially if the loan is secured against a property is scandalous, and a 2½ per cent fee just for arranging the loan is disgusting," said Alastair Conway, managing director of Clark Conway, independent financial advisers.

One option to be considered which may be cheaper is remortgaging your home. With generally lower mortgage rates, said Doug Bonnar of the Schools Fees Association, remortgaging could be a better option, especially if you have a reasonable level of equity in your home.

Score: ★★

Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

CLARE STEWART

INDIA'S LIVING national symbol is in very real danger of being extinguished within the next ten years.

In 1972 the known number of Indian tigers had plummeted to under 2000.

The government quickly responded and set up reserves throughout the country.

By 1984 the tiger population had doubled. Unfortunately after this success came government complacency and greed.

Tiger reserves are being pressurised by industrialisation and illegal timber extraction, whilst poaching is again rife.

On average, one tiger is killed every day. The bones and skins of a quarter of the tiger population have recently been illegally sold in the East.

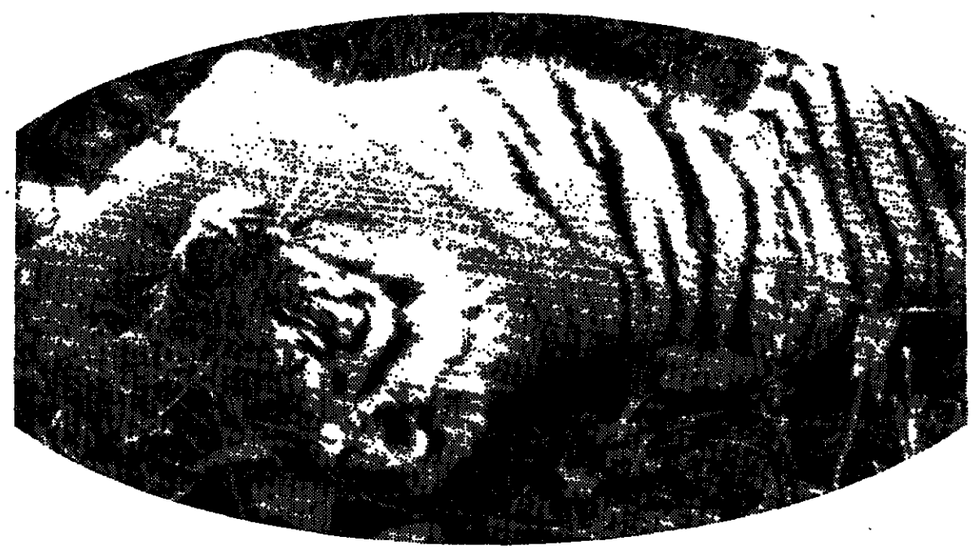
Yet dealers and poachers that are caught often find themselves released within 24 hours, free to kill again. Despite this crisis the Indian Board for Wildlife has not met since 1988.

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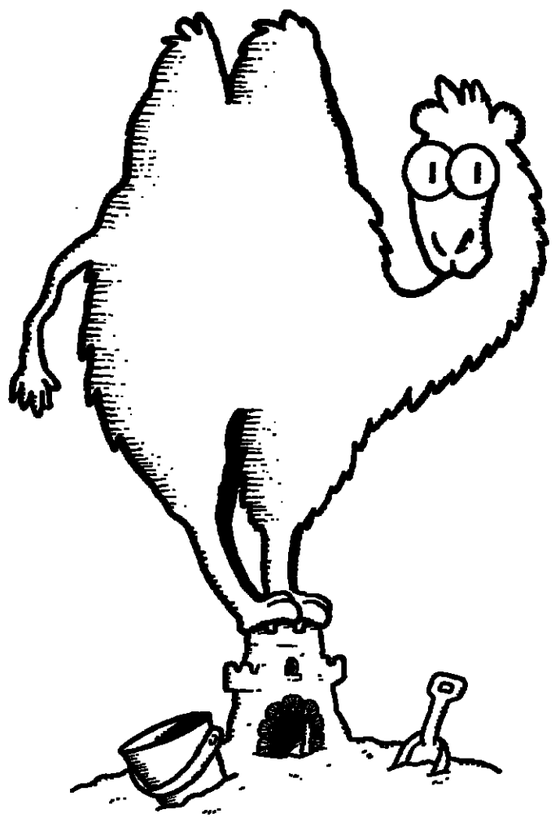
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Euro starts to make waves

Time will tell what the cost of a single currency will be for British investors, says Gavin Lumsden

MICHAEL URBAN



Europhile: Katrina Leskanich of Katrina and the Waves who triumphed in the Eurovision Song Contest last year

Tonight's Eurovision Song Contest is an annual reminder that, in popular culture at least, Europe is supposed to be one. However, millions of television viewers will be wondering if the single currency will bring as much harmony.

Certainly investors and savers in the UK are holding their breath as to whether next year's planned launch of the euro will be a blessing or a disaster for their finances. Although the UK has not joined the 11 countries embarking on the first wave of monetary union, the effects of the historic endeavour will not stop at Calais.

Fund managers are warning people in the UK to expect lower returns on their savings and investments in future as our economy begins to converge with mainland Europe. *On a brighter note, the euro* should turn the theory behind the single market into a reality. With European businesses vying for the custom of 300 million consumers there will be a marked increase in competition, resulting in cheaper goods and exciting investment opportunities.

Exporters have also been crossing their fingers as political wrangling over who should head the new European Central Bank prompted sterling to show its first real sign of weakness in months.

The reason for the slump in the pound was feverish speculation that the Bundesbank would increase its interest rates in reaction to the compromise reached last weekend which will probably see the first President of the ECB, Dutchman Wim Duisenberg, give way to France's Jean-Claude Trichet after just four years. German bankers are angry that the political independence of the ECB has been besmirched and want to demonstrate that they are still the driving force behind the euro whilst protecting the mark.

However, analysts are divided as to whether the pound will now rise or fall from its current level of just under DM3.00. Those predicting a fall say UK interest rates have peaked making the mark a more attractive option for international investors. Opponents say sterling will remain a safe haven while doubts over the viability of the euro remain.

Leaving the pundits to squabble, many far-sighted people flocked to their travel agents this week to get the best rate of exchange for their holiday spending money. Despite this week's fall Britons are still able to get on average 10 per cent more in European currencies for their money than a year ago. Greece is 22 per cent cheaper, having devalued the drachma in its bid to be included in the Euro 11.

However, Julian Jessop, chief European economist at Nikko Europe, warned people not to get carried away. "My general advice is not to bother speculating on currencies. It is hard enough for the professionals and there are usually more profitable ways of tying up your money."

One profitable alternative could be actually to invest in Europe via a unit or investment trust. In the past two years good economic growth and low inflation have combined with an emphasis by European companies on the importance of generating shareholder value. Share buybacks and capital restructuring are becoming more common, say fund managers.

The arrival of the euro is set to accentuate these positive features. Although European companies will be able to sell goods and services in a vastly expanded market they will also face pressure from competitors from other countries. At the same time the single currency will highlight the regional discrepancies in prices on products such as cars and alcohol.

Roger Guy, manager of the Gartmore European Selected Opportunities Fund, said: "If you are an inefficient producer you may have got away with it in the past, but under EMU (economic and monetary union) you will be quickly found out."

Rory Powe, head of European investment at Invesco, said: "Companies will not be able to rely on their governments devaluing currencies to make them more competitive."

As a result both managers predict a wave of consolidation, particularly in fragmented sectors such as banking, telecoms and healthcare.

In this environment stock picking will become more important. Mr Guy said a good fund manager would be able to add value by exploiting market anomalies. "The European stock market is less developed than the UK, and it is possible to find companies that are not well understood and to keep ahead of the game," he said.

However, there is a dark side to this consolidation. As in the UK, job security will become a thing of the past.

Mr Powe said: "Companies will be looking to shed labour to make themselves more efficient. This is likely to be more easily done in the white-collar service sectors than in the more politically-sensitive blue-collar industries."

Fear of unemployment will in turn restrain consumer confidence and hold back spending on goods and services. This, in turn, could boost financial services. Europeans have woefully low levels of retirement savings compared with the UK. Luckily for them the advent of an equity culture comes at a time when European stock market returns will improve. The reverse is true for UK savers who will see rates of return fall towards European levels by 2002, when the country is pencilled in for the euro.

Theodora Zemek, head of global fixed interest at M&G, said investors who have grown accustomed to annual rates of return of 8 per cent on their stock market investments would have to make do with less than 6 per cent.

Next week: the euro and pensions.

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Sources 1-3 Micropal buying price to selling price with gross income reinvested. 03/05/93 to 01/05/98. £6,000 became £14,181, an increase of £8,181. Based on: £3,000 invested in the UK Equity Fund became £6,875 (1/1112 in sector), £2,000 invested in the UK Enterprise Fund became £4,818 (11/129 in sector). £1,000 invested in the UK Smaller Companies Fund became £2,488 (6/57 in sector).

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Miss Otis regrets she is unable to buy



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

This week Barclays invites you to be there or be square with its new b² investment scheme, the Advanced Savings Account. It is an invitation that you may prefer to decline.

Your suspicions should first be aroused by the description of the account, using a string of abstract concepts that would grace a new Labour election address.

It is "bright, fresh, modern, open, innovative, personal, straightforward, fair". The reality is more mundane. Barclays is offering a unit trust, with a Pep option and built-in guarantee, not dissimilar to offers available from more traditional businesses. It is neither particularly cheap, nor straightforward, as the workings of the guarantee, based on derivatives, are complex.

The Advanced Savings Account, the first of a range of b² products, aims to make the stock market a less intimidating place for those who have preferred the safety of the building society. The pictures on the front of the literature, visions of cloudless skies and empty white beaches, are presumably an evocation of this brave new world.

But a more realistic simpler introduction to the often stormy sphere of share trading would be an index tracker fund. The brochure also reveals that b² seeks to break down the "barriers of inertia, confusion and lack of trust" that characterises the relationship that millions have with savings institutions. This is an altogether admirable aim, as government policies encouraging self-sufficiency mean that we must all become more adept at money management.

But Barclays, like its high street fellows, is partly to blame for the widespread lack of confidence in financial services, which may be why the bank's name has been reduced to its initial in this new venture. Those approaching branches of Barclays and its competitors for financial advice can too often find that they are put into high-charge, inflexible schemes. Barclays's ambition to reform its industry should extend to its existing range.

Volte-face

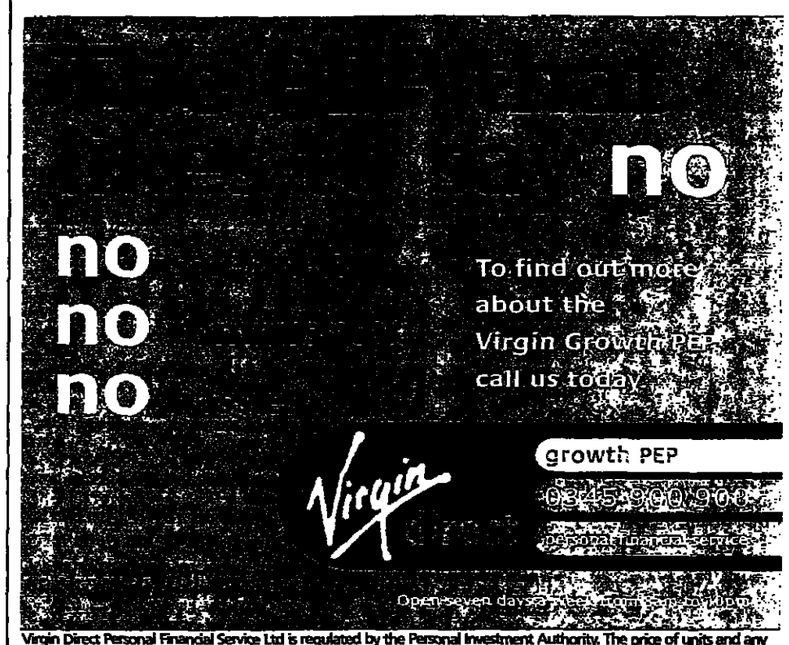
THE once-pugnacious Prudential is now all contrition. At its annual meeting, Sir Martin Jacomb conceded that the company had behaved badly in the pensions scandal: "We fell a long way short of what was acceptable, both to ourselves and the regulator."

This confession is certainly heartfelt. The pain caused to the Pru by the repercussions of the scandal is now certainly greater than any advantages it derived from encouraging thousands to buy the wrong pensions. However, this breast-beating is also self-interested. The Prudential must prove to the Government that it is fit to sell the new stakeholder pensions. In such situations, Oprah Winfrey-style confessions of guilt can seem appropriate.

To ensure that the pension companies truly make amends, Weekend Money proposes that any company admitted into the stakeholder market should be obliged to review cases where pensions have been properly sold. The Chartwell survey (see page 64) reveals that many companies are still offering poor value plans, with sneaky small-print terms.

It takes insider knowledge to spot, for example, that if your money is being invested in capital or initial units when you first take out your pension then the salesman is getting a better deal than you are. Any company prone to such practices should be forced to improve its existing pension contracts before being allowed to take any stakeholder business.

There are already welcome indications that the Government is prepared to be tough with life insurers. They are said to be sulking about the permitted level of charges on the new individual savings account (Isa). But we doubt that any of them will dare to complain.



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Caroline Merrell on the troubled times of a huge fund manager

Can M&G come back?

TRUST WATCH

Turning around M&G, the beleaguered fund management company, was deemed to be as difficult as manoeuvring an ocean liner. This week M&G claimed that it had succeeded in reversing the poor performance of its flagship funds.

The management says changes instigated at the end of last year are helping to improve its previously abysmal performance figures. However, others believe that most of the recovery has been as a result of a rally in mid-cap stocks, where M&G has large holdings.

The investment company, which looks after £16 billion of savings for 700,000 customers, had come under a deluge of criticism over the poor performance of its trusts. Many funds, the majority of which are based on investing in UK companies, had failed to match the index, or its performance benchmarks.

Despite the less-than-sparkling figures, M&G continued to launch product after product — many of the trusts were similar, with the fund manager, for instance, choosing to launch an investment trust one year, and a very similar unit trust in the following year.

M&G continued to be supported by independent financial advisers until the beginning of last year, when in the teeth of a roaring bull market, funds continued to languish in the doldrums. An investment trust launched early in 1997, supported by an ad campaign featuring Lord Lawson of Blaby, failed to appeal to investors.

IFAs were no longer keen to support the fund management group, which contributed to the estimated £300 million exodus of funds from the manager last year.

Michael McLintock, M&G's youthful chief executive, was forced to admit that the company offered many similar funds. While keen to emphasise that it was committed to the "value" method of fund management — buying shares in companies that looked undervalued compared with the average — Mr McLintock instigated a series of changes. Funds were merged, tighter monitoring and a more flexible management style were introduced.

Rachel Medill, director of M&G, claims that the group has now turned the corner. She said: "We have seen strong performance across the board, in fact over the past eight months, 88 per cent of our funds were either first or second quartile."

She highlighted in particular four funds — extra income, recovery, blue chip and smaller companies. According to the figures, the extra income fund has risen 30 per cent since the beginning of August last year, the recovery fund has risen 30 per cent, the blue chip 25 per cent and the smaller companies 28 per cent. The FTSE All Share benchmark index has risen 23 per cent and the smaller companies index has risen by 24 per cent.

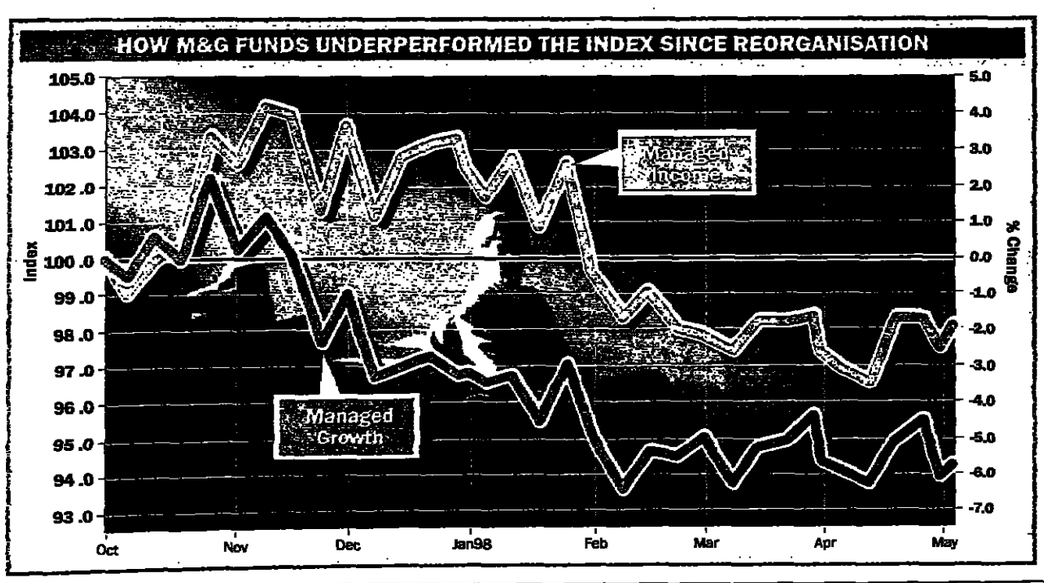
Despite the glimmer of recovery, financial advisers will still not recommend M&G funds. Jason Hollands, of BESt Investment, is not convinced. He said: "There has been a slight catching up in the mid caps stocks in any case, where M&G has got its investments." He pointed out that the fund of funds, which would give some indication of performance of all trusts operated by the group, had not shown any recovery.

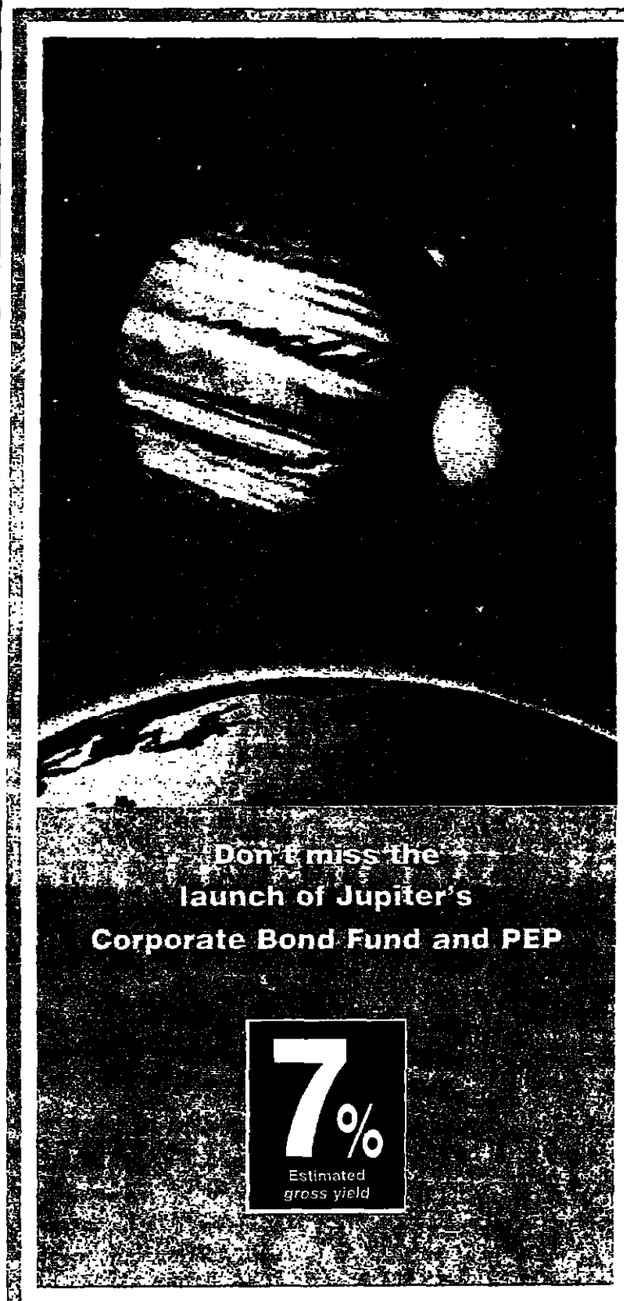
Ian Millward, of the financial adviser Chase de Vere, said: "There are some positive signs. It is too short a time to say they are out of the woods."

Mr Millward added: "It is very difficult to say why anyone would recommend M&G funds, when other managers such as Perpetual and HSBC have better long-term performance."

Peter Jeffries, of Standard & Poor's Fund Research, believes that M&G has turned the corner. He said: "They have rebuilt and changed their approach but kept the character of the group. They have eliminated the bits that have become outdated," he said.

Not all are as convinced of M&G's recovery. Neil Woodford, of the rival fund manager Perpetual, said: "If you have a wide range of funds like M&G, then some of the funds are bound to out-perform some of the time. Highlighting four that have done well leaves you wondering what the other funds have done."





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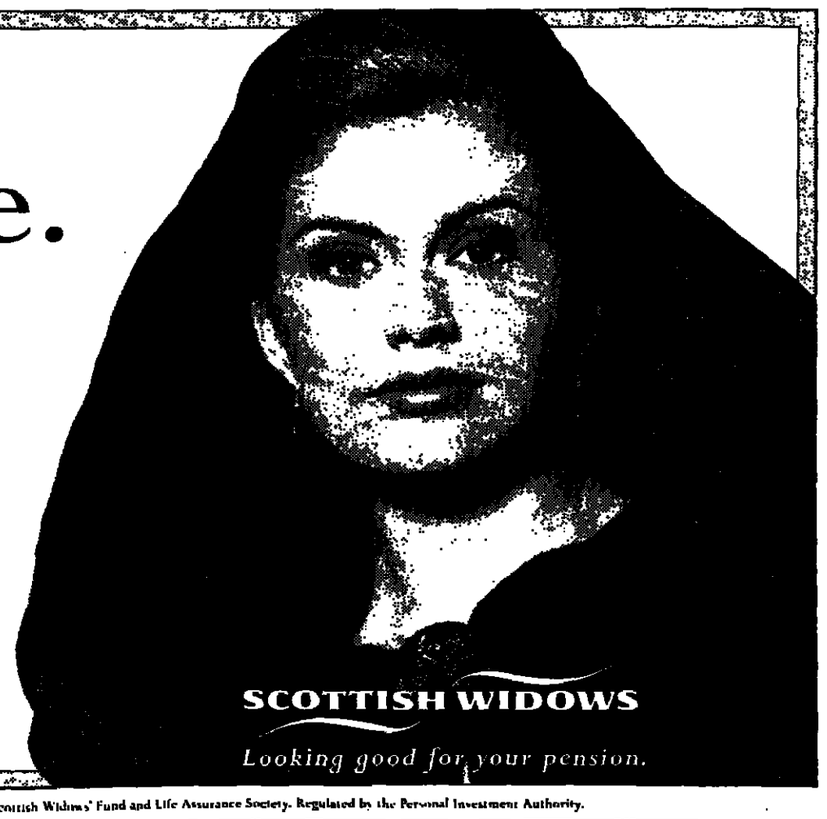
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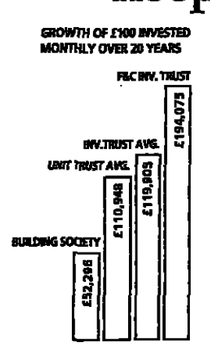


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Paying the price for a loyal customer base

Lizanne Rose compares the benefits stores offer to keep your custom



Lord Sainsbury of Turville, whose departure from Sainsbury's could spark a new round in the supermarket wars

The departure of Lord Sainsbury of Turville from the empire founded by his great-grandfather in 1869 threatens to unleash fresh hostilities in the supermarket wars.

Currently Tesco is supreme with its mixture of fresh produce and Ralph Lauren sweatshirts. The rest are battling hard to catch up, and one of the principal weapons in their struggle is the loyalty card which offers shoppers points towards Air Miles, discounts within the stores or free gifts.

Only Asda has held back, with no plans to extend a trial card scheme now running at 19 of its stores.

Loyalty cards provide invaluable information on shoppers' habits because every purchase made by a cardholder is held on a computer, allowing stores to tailor promotions towards the buyer, often by direct mail.

Boots would say that the value of being able to understand their customers is extremely high. The millions of pounds that it costs to set up these card schemes is more than paid for in the sale profits generated. "If we merely cut prices on goods, we would not evolve as a store. Our scheme enables Boots to continually improve and keep up to date with our customers," the group says.

Safeway, which has distributed its ABC card to seven million shoppers, is attempting to increase its market share and to prove that it can remain independent in the face of bid rumours, by offering its cardholders a new extra points deal.

In the past, like Sainsbury and Tesco, it has given away one point for every pound spent. Safeway customers can now earn double or triple points by spending at least £160 in any calendar month. The aim, obviously, is to attract yet more free-spending families into its stores.

The popularity of supermarket loyalty cards has inspired other retailers to climb onto the the bandwagon.

Here, *Weekend Money* reviews the rewards that the high street giants use to woo you into their stores.

BOOTS

CUSTOMERS who sign up for the chemist chain's Advantage card receive 1 point for every 25p spent. In other words, for every 100 points earned you get a credit worth £1 — the most generous offer around. Purchases are rounded up to the nearest 25p, so a shopper spending £1.01 collects points worth 5p. The Boots loyalty card has proved popular with seven million people, 93 per cent of them female, taking advantage of the scheme in the past six months, ahead of the company's target of 6.5 million.

Points can be exchanged for 10,000 different items. Customers cannot earn points for some items they can buy over the counter, however, such as prescriptions and medicines.

CO-OP

THE Co-op's Divi-card scheme (a revamped version of the dividend scheme launched by the founders of the Co-operative Movement) makes it possible, in theory, for customers to earn 5 per cent on their total spend. In practice the average is about 2 per cent because shoppers earn points only on Co-op own brands and fresh produce, including fresh meat and delicatessen items. Twice a year customers collect their divi in the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for goods or cash.

Payment is made on full pounds earned, and customers can opt to roll over the spare pennies into the next payout or pay it into the Community Dividend scheme to benefit the local community.

The original divi was introduced by the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844. For more than 100 years shoppers benefited from the Co-op Society's profits paid to members in proportion to goods bought. In the late Sixties the divi was replaced by stamps but was largely discontinued in the early Eighties.

WH SMITH

THE 2.5 million holders of the WH Smith Clubcard, launched in July 1997, can spend their accumulated points instantly at any WH Smith store.

One point is awarded for every 10p spent (1 point is worth 0.2p), and shoppers can simply use the cash value on their cards to cut the price of any item they buy. Extra Clubcard points are offered on a variety of products. A children's version of the card for 5 to 11-year-olds is available.

SAINSBURY

J SAINSBURY has attracted more than ten million cardholders since it launched its Reward scheme in June 1996. One point is given for every £1 spent. Accumulating 250 Reward points will earn you a £2.50 Reward voucher, which can be used towards payment for goods in any Sainsbury's group store.

Cardholders can put their collected points towards Air Miles, family offers, such as BT talktime, or a donation to charity. Extra Reward points can be earned through purchasing special items on display throughout the stores.

Sainsbury's Bank Visa cardholders can collect double Reward points while shopping in Sainsbury's stores, its petrol stations and Savacentres. This link-up between the chain's increasingly successful bank and the loyalty card system may be the first of many such moves.

TESCO

TESCO was the first of the big supermarkets to launch a loyalty card, in February 1995. The Tesco Clubcard builds up one point, worth 1p, for every pound spent, and every 13 weeks a statement and vouchers for the points accumulated are sent out to the cardholders.

Customers can use the points to get money off anything bought in main Tesco stores, including its petrol stations, coffee shops and chemists. Clubcard points can also be earned at B&Q.

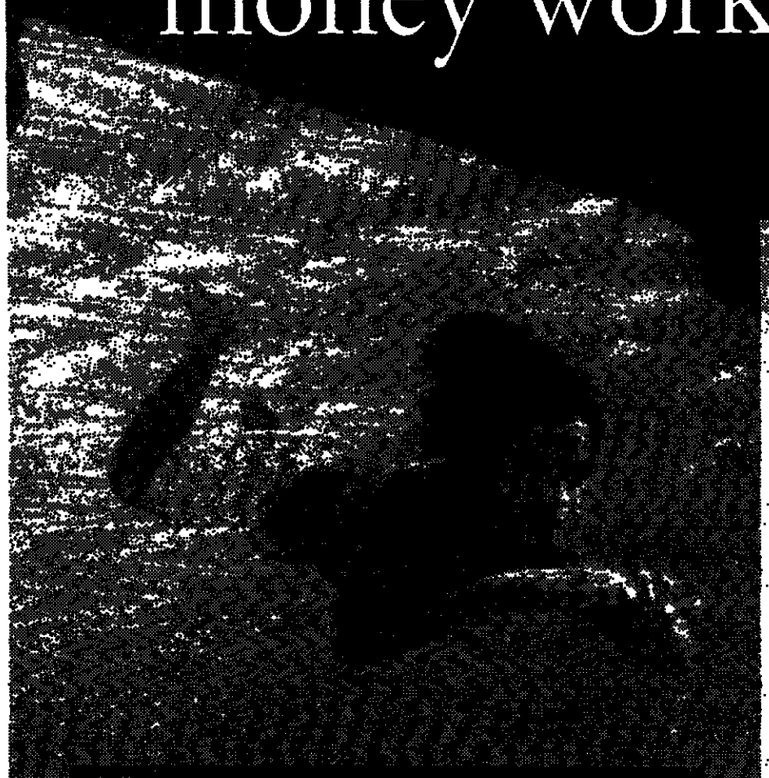
SAFEWAY

ABC cardholders receive at least one point for every pound spent. Its new scheme, mentioned above, means if you spend more than £160 in a month, points earned the following month will be either doubled or tripled. Customers can cash in the points in five ways: money off the shopping bill (500 points gets £5 off), free products, in-store services such as crèches or dry cleaners, family offers such as free cinema tickets, or donation to charity. Points can only be redeemed at your home store.

ASDA

ASDA would advocate that a promise of a low till receipt is the best way of keeping customers loyal and is yet to be convinced of the value of cards. Thus, the group has no immediate plans to launch a national card of its own.

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هكذا من الأصل

Helen Pridham continues her series on pensions, this week dealing with divorce

Dividing up a lifetime

YOU AND YOUR PENSION

After years of discussion and delay, a draft Bill on pension splitting on divorce — *or pension sharing*, as the Government prefers to call it — is expected to be published at the end of June. If all goes to plan, the new rules will come into effect in April 2000. This should bring to an end many of the difficulties associated with trying to divide up pension assets on divorce.

Such arrangements are common in the US, where Lorna Wendt, the wife of Gary Wendt, boss of GE Capital, the financial services arm of General Electric, last year won a $20 million divorce settlement. The settlement included a slice of his pension rights, reflecting Mrs Wendt's claim that as a corporate wife she had devoted her life to furthering her husband's career, preventing her from accumulating her own pension.

David Davidson, divorce and pensions specialist at Charles Russell, the solicitor, said: "When pension splitting is introduced it will make it much easier to find workable solutions to the problems which currently arise on divorce."

Some in the pensions industry had feared that pension splitting might be pushed down the agenda as the Government grappled with its plans for stakeholder pensions. However, Allan Martin of Hymans Robertson, the actuary, who speaks for the Association of Consulting Actuaries on divorce and has been sitting on the Department of Social Security's consultation panel dealing with the draft Bill, is optimistic about the outcome.

He said: "The DSS has been listening carefully to views from the pensions industry and has, I think, produced something which is workable and should not lead to any party political squabbles."

Pensions have become an increasingly important part of the equation when couples split. Typically, it is still the husband who has the greatest pension assets. Women who have taken career breaks to bring up a family often have major shortfalls in pension provision.

In the past, many married women expected that their husbands' pensions would be enough for both of them in retirement. Although younger women are becoming more pensions-aware, a recent survey by the Prudential found that "despite the advent of 'girl power', a staggering 20 per cent of women under 35 still plan to rely on a partner to provide for their retirement".

Until a couple of years ago, a marriage breakdown could put paid to such plans and leave a woman facing real financial hardship in retirement.

Fiona Price, a financial adviser, said: "It was always possible to consider pension assets in a divorce but many solicitors were ignorant of the fact and women were often keen to get things over and done because of the emotional stress."

In Scotland, pension assets started playing a more important role in divorce settlements after 1986. The snag was that it was not possible to divide up the pensions benefits themselves so it meant that the value of other assets, such as the family home, was often given to the ex-wife in lieu of her share of the pension rights. This was not always a satisfactory substitute for a pension, and if no such assets were available the situation became even more difficult.

In 1995, the Government came up with a solution and legislation was also adopted in England and Wales, making it possible for occupational and personal pension benefits to be "earmarked" for the benefit of a former spouse. This meant that the divorce court could direct the trustees or managers of a pension scheme to pay part of a pension to an ex-spouse and/or all or part of the cash lump sum. The provision applied to all divorce proceedings started from July 1, 1996.

However, earmarking appears to have got off to a slow start. In the latest annual survey by the National Association of Pension Funds, which covers more than 800 pension schemes, only 58 schemes had been served with a divorce order. Leading providers of personal pensions have also seen little activity.

According Mr Davidson, many younger couples are still opting for "clean break" arrangements where possible, with lump sum capital payments being made to compensate for the loss of future pension rights.

Earmarking of pension benefits has several drawbacks. The death of an ex-husband is the most serious, especially if death occurs after retirement because the pension may die with him. A way round this is for the court to use a variation of settlement order. Mr Davidson explains: "This will ensure that a dependant's annuity is paid to the ex-spouse, provided she has not remarried."

☐ For more information contact solicitors Charles Russell for their free booklet, *The Lay Person's Guide to Pensions and Marriage Breakdown*. Tel: 0171-203 5000.

☐ *The Divorced Woman's Survival Guide*, priced £2.95, is available from Fiona Price & Partners, 33 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AA.

Next week: early retirement.



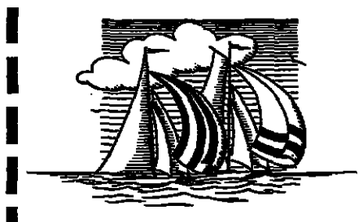
Lorna and Gary Wendt before she won $20 million, including a part of his pension in a divorce

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

A&L link to boost youth hostels

The Youth Hostels Association will receive the equivalent of 2 per cent of any personal loan taken out by one of its members with the Alliance & Leicester. This is the first affinity deal by A&L Personal Finance with a charitable organisation. A&L hopes that this will generate much needed funds for the YHA's hostel development programme in England and Wales. While the new agreement is a long-term arrangement with the YHA, it could prove a pilot scheme for other similar link-ups. YHA members should quote YAS1 when telephoning 0990 626262 to arrange a loan. Rates range from 18.5 per cent APR for a loan between £500 and £2,499, to 11.5 per cent APR for a £12,500-£15,000 loan.

■ A frequent trader service has been launched by Saga Investment Direct as a new development to Saga Share Direct, the telephone and postal share dealing service. For an annual membership fee of £25, the trader service offers people aged 50-plus, who have a portfolio of shares and trade regularly, the chance to trade up to £20,000 for a flat charge of £16. Investors will also be able to resell shares up to eight days after purchase without having to wait for share certificates. Call 0800-214 834, ref 198.

■ A new package with increased loan and overdraft facilities is being offered to graduates by Barclays Bank. Available for two years after graduation, Barclays will provide a fixed rate graduate loan of up to £10,000 for a maximum of seven years at a current APR of 9.9 per cent. Graduates can opt to take advantage of a three-month repayment holiday. A graduate overdraft of up to £1,800 is interest-free for the first year and will be 1 per cent above base rate in the second year. Barclays has also produced a graduate guide which includes information on choosing the right career and writing the perfect CV. For a free copy, call 0800-783 3881.

■ Abbey National has revised its savings rates in a number of its accounts. This includes the Choices Bond which is paying up to 7.65 per cent gross pa. There is no change to the Tessa range and the fixed-rate accounts remain unaffected.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	Direct Access	InstantT	£1	6.96	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829	Instant Access	InstantB	£100	7.00	Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£1,000	7.30	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	Direct Access	Postal	£5,000	7.55	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day P	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 4	60 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Base Plus	1 year	£2,001	8.00	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Yly
Darlington BS 01325 366366		5 year	£1,000	8.00	Yly
Sun Bank 01438 744505		5 year	£1,000	8.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

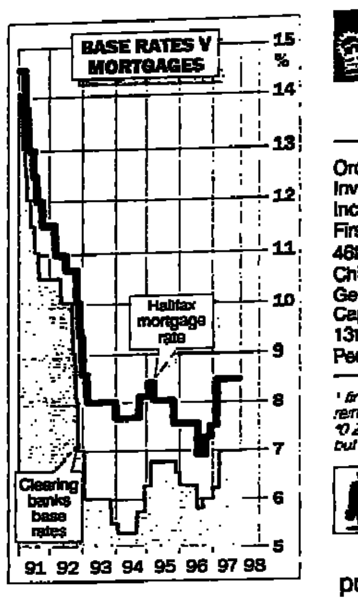
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

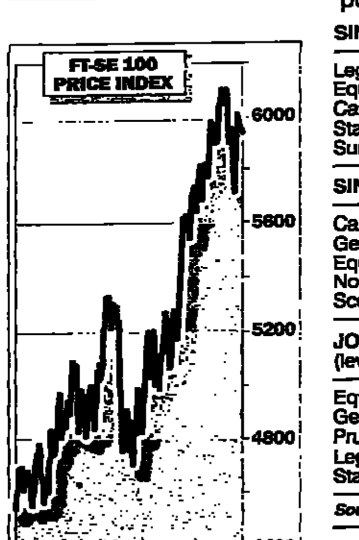
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.13	£166.11
Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122	12.50%	£190.33	£165.77
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
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Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*6	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-489**7	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* 6	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond4	6.50	5.20	3.90	1,000-250K**		0645 645000
48th Issue Cert† 3	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond 6	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked† 3	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5 6	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000 5	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. ² inst accs for up to £100 ³ Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ⁴ Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁵ 0.2% net bonus for £20,000–£100,000 ⁶ in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings* Taxable but cred in full ⁷ £500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Legal & General...Level	£8,520	£9,563	£10,879
Equitable Life...Level	£8,512	£9,531	£10,928
Canada Life ....Level	£8,418	£9,511	£10,997
Standard Life ......Level	£8,336	£9,440	£10,880
Sun Life ....Level	£8,289	£9,428	£10,961

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£7,753	£8,595	£9,808
Generali ....Level	£7,809	£8,557	£9,634
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,810	£8,552	£9,622
Norwich Union......Level	£7,646	£8,403	£9,621
Scottish Widows..Level	£7,590	£8,320	£9,390

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,435	£8,021	£8,842
Generali ....Level	£7,357	£7,918	£8,702
Prudential ....Level	£7,309	£7,832	£8,603
Legal & General...Level	£7,254	£7,827	£8,629
Stalwart ....Level	£7,276	£7,812	£8,528

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at May 7, 1998

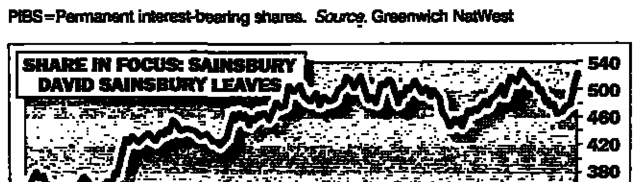
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.05
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50
2 Years			
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	15,000	AIG Life	6.02
	25,000	AIG Life	6.08
	40,000	AIG Life	6.14
3 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.00
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.06
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.11
4 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.75
	50,000	Hambro Assured	5.81

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	132.00	7.10	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	160.25	7.25	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	178.75	7.27	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	181.75	7.15	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	170.75	7.10	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	162.75	7.22	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	189.50	7.06	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	156.75	6.86	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	183.00	6.90	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	187.75	6.86	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	166.25	7.07	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	119.75	7.31	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	156.00	7.69	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	191.75	7.11	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	183.00	7.31	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	174.75	7.22	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source*. Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	any	95	0% 2 mths, 2% disc for 10 mths
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths Dscs, £280 fee
Northern Rock¹ 0845 6050500	3.89	to £250k	95	Fixed to 1.9.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.85	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.7.00 0.5%fee,£300 max
Halifax 01422 333333	4.95	no max	90	Fixed to 31.8.00 £295 fee

NB. ¹ compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	any	95	0% for 2 mths, 2% disc 10 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.05	to £150k	95	Fixed for 1 yr 0.75% fee
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-175k	95	8% disc-6 mths, more dscs apply
Bank of Ireland 0118 9684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Leeds & Holbeck¹ 0113 225 7777	1.45	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% disc 12 mths

NB. ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Wesleyan Hm Lns 0121 2003003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% dis- 1 year
Halifax 01422 333333	5.65	any	95	Fixed to 31.8.00 £195 fee
Alliance & Leic¹ 0345 108108	5.85	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.5.00 £150 fee

NB. ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482).

Up to 7.85% gross p.a. variable
Leading one year rates, fixed or variable option bond.
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0800 20 21 21 BRISTOL & WEST
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We specialise in mortgages, savings, investments and nothing else.
One Year Option Bond minimum investment £5,000. 7.85% gross p.a. variable for 12 months paid on investments of £250,000+. Interest paid monthly or on maturity. Bristol & West plc. Registered in England No. 2124201. Registered Office: PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AX.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	628.20	664.80	+1.20	...
UK Equity	896.80	949.10	-2.40	...
Property	483.70	511.90	-0.40	...
Fixed Interest	377.90	399.90	+2.90	...
Money	287.30	304.10	+0.30	...
International	520.60	551.00	+8.60	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	231.90	244.20	+0.10	...
Ethical S4	204.50	215.30	+0.30	...
International S4	245.00	257.90	+3.00	...
Protected Gth S4	135.60	142.80	+0.20	...
Asian Pacific	149.30	157.20	-3.70	...
European S4	328.60	345.90	+12.00	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	464.50	489.00	+0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	357.60	376.50	+0.80	...
Man Ser 4	956.60	1007.00	+6.30	...
Conv Ser 4	376.80	396.70	+0.30	...
Money Ser 4	376.30	396.20	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	463.20	487.60	-1.60	...
American Ser 4	921.50	970.00	+8.40	...
High Inc Ser 4	1105.30	1163.50	+3.80	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	268.60	282.80	...	0.00
Japan Ser 4	234.10	246.50	+0.40	...
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	901.00	953.50	+2.30	...
British Fund	978.30	1035.30	-0.90	...
International	812.40	859.70	+10.70	...
Dollar Fund	764.90	809.50	+1.30	...
Capital Fund	764.40	808.90	+5.50	...
Income Fund	1215.90	1286.70	+2.30	...
Property Series A	597.00	631.80	...	4.70
Property Units	999.20	1049.20	...	...
Financial Fund	1190.80	1260.20	-4.80	...
Managed Ser A	834.00	882.60	-5.20	...
Managed Units	1511.40	1591.00	+9.70	...
High Yield Fund	1091.30	1154.90	+4.50	...
Money Series A	333.30	352.70	-0.40	...
Money Units	447.60	471.20	+0.50	...
Equity Fund	975.70	1032.50	+7.60	...
Fixed Interest	496.30	525.20	-2.00	...
Indexed Secs	231.70	245.30	-0.40	...
European Fund	1368.40	1448.10	+65.90	...
Natural Res	263.50	278.90	-3.80	...
Far East Fund	452.30	478.70	-6.10	...
Smaller Cos	795.00	841.30	-16.50	...
Special Sits	884.70	936.20	+7.60	...
Man Currency	299.70	317.20	+1.20	...
Japanese Tech	234.50	248.20	+2.00	...
US Smaller Cos	562.70	595.50	+2.00	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	282.30	298.90	+0.30	...
Financial Ser I	97.10	102.30	-2.10	...
Fixed Interest	418.50	440.60	-2.30	...
Gold	67.30	70.90	-2.60	...
Managed	911.90	959.90	+0.20	...
Mngd Growth	293.90	309.40	+0.20	...
Property	406.10	427.50	...	...
Residential Prop	125.90	132.60	...	...
TSB American	435.10	458.00	-0.20	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1497.90	1576.80	-8.50	...
TSB European	502.00	528.50	-22.30	...
TSB Income	700.60	737.50	-1.90	...
TSB Intl	613.80	646.20	+6.00	...
TSB Pacific	312.30	328.70	-6.70	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	431.20	453.90	+0.50	...
Equity Acc	2190.60	2305.90	-4.50	...
Property Acc	790.70	832.40	+1.20	...
Far East Acc	234.60	247.00	-6.50	...
Managed Capital	744.20	783.40	-1.20	...
-do- Acc	1638.30	1724.60	-2.00	...
Overseas Acc	1636.30	1722.50	-2.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	657.40	692.00	-3.90	...
Amer Equity Acc	1532.60	1613.30	-2.10	...
Amer Man Acc	633.20	666.60	-0.20	...
Amer Prop Acc	131.90	138.90	+1.80	...
Distribution Bonds	29.60	31.20	...	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	194.40	204.70	+0.10	...
Balced Ser 6	1092.30	1149.80	+3.10	...
Opportunity Ser 6	259.30	273.00	+0.00	...
Distribution Ser 6	119.70	126.00	-0.10	5.85
UK Equities Ser 6	1720.50	1811.10	-3.30	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1843.50	1940.60	...	...
North Amer Ser 6	757.40	797.30	+4.30	...
Far East Ser 6	427.40	449.90	-9.70	...
Europe Ser 6	732.10	770.70	-25.30	...
Intnl Ser 6	797.50	839.50	+8.70	...
Property Ser 6	646.00	680.10	+2.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	554.30	583.50	-1.30	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	230.50	242.70	-0.10	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	343.20	361.30	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1476.10	1553.80	+2.70	...
-do- Initial	864.90	910.50	+1.60	...
Gilt Edged Acc	520.00	547.40	-1.40	...
-do- Initial	307.40	323.60	-0.80	...
International Acc	528.20	555.90	+6.50	...
-do- Initial	309.10	325.40	+3.90	...
Managed Acc	796.30	838.30	+4.10	...
-do- Initial	469.30	494.10	+2.40	...
Money Acc	334.50	352.20	+0.30	...
Property Acc	360.90	379.90	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	213.40	224.70	...	...
America Acc	547.50	576.40	+2.80	...
Far East Gwth	154.60	162.80	-5.70	...
Financial Acc	678.40	714.20	-0.10	...
500 Accum	643.20	677.10	+8.70	...
Japan Acc	173.20	182.90	+0.40	...
Income Acc	862.00	907.40	+1.50	...
Special Sits Acc	457.30	481.40	+1.90	...
Univ Tech Acc	224.80	236.70	+3.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1207.29	1207.29	+6.27	...
Income Fund	1242.96	1308.38	-0.22	...
Extra Income	1127.49	1186.84	+3.44	...
Worldwide Gth	696.66	733.33	+11.87	...
Balanced Fund	1088.36	1145.65	-3.20	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1231.16	1295.96	+16.31	...
N Amer & Genrl	643.16	677.02	+5.62	...
Pacific Basin	271.29	285.57	-10.41	...
German Growth	394.13	414.88	+14.91	...
Japan Growth	125.56	132.17	-1.85	...
The UK Gth Fd	353.56	372.17	-0.90	...
Contl Euro Gth	239.37	251.97	+10.69	...
Property Fund	464.79	489.26	+0.52	...
Fixed Interest	433.11	455.91	-1.41	...
Cash Fund	323.67	340.71	-0.15	...
Managed Inv	712.32	749.82	+3.73	...
Nth Amer Recov	394.52	415.29	-0.54	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	252.60	267.30	+0.20	...
Performance Plus	301.90	319.40	+6.50	...
With Profit Perf	204.40	216.20	+0.30	...
UK Opportunity	348.40	368.60	-2.50	...
Euro Opportunity	404.30	427.80	+20.90	...
North Amer Opp	329.80	349.00	+3.10	...
Far East Opp	168.80	178.60	-1.10	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	187.40	197.20	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	252.30	266.90	-0.10	...
Fixed Int	268.10	283.60	-0.20	...
Cash	182.00	192.50	+0.10	6.49
Overseas	347.90	368.10	+7.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	529.10	557.00	-0.30	...
UK Equity	1051.90	1109.40	-7.80	...
Property	348.20	366.60	+0.20	...
Money Market	288.40	303.60	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	389.50	410.00	-0.20	...
Japan	254.30	267.70	+1.10	...
North America	393.50	309.00	+2.70	...
International	537.60	565.90	-11.50	...
European	517.10	544.40	+26.60	...
Far East	125.00	131.60	-0.80	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	493.00	519.00	+1.50	...
Property	318.90	335.70	-0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	309.50	325.80	-0.20	...
Equity	634.60	668.10	+0.50	...
Cash	245.50	258.50	+0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	631.00	664.30	+24.80	...
CLife Intl Fd	409.90	431.50	+5.20	...
Managed Fund	1052.50	1107.90	+3.10	...
Property Fund	639.40	673.10	+0.70	...
Equity Fund	1566.20	1648.60	-1.20	...
Gilt Edged Fd	798.40	840.40	-0.60	...
Deposit Fund	379.10	399.00	+0.40	...
Investment Fd	704.80	740.10	+0.70	...
International	652.40	686.70	+8.30	...
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2472.00	2602.10	+6.00	...
Merc European	713.20	750.70	+28.50	...
Merc Fxd Int	654.70	689.10	-3.30	...
Gtd Money	383.20	403.30	-0.40	...
Mercury Intl Mgd	936.10	985.40	+15.70	...
Merc Int Fxd Int	393.60	414.30	+6.80	...
Mercury Japan	191.30	201.40	+0.30	...
Merc Nth Amer	572.30	602.40	-0.30	...
UK Property	530.00	557.80	+0.50	...
Merc Multip Inv	1494.70	1562.70	+9.70	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606181				
Property Fund	226.40	238.40	+12.60	...
Managed Fund	969.20	1020.30	-32.50	...
Equity Fund	627.00	660.00	+24.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	433.20	456.10	+1.90	...
Ruby	234.80	247.20	+3.80	...
Emerald	180.80	190.40	...	...
Equity	552.20	581.30	-0.90	...
Property	264.40	278.40	+0.90	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	270.40	284.70	-1.20	...
Indexed Secs	213.50	224.80	-0.20	...
Cash	214.60	225.90	+0.10	...
Nth American	434.00	456.90	+1.00	...
Far East	231.80	244.00	+2.00	...
International	325.40	342.60	+4.90	...
Special Sits	598.40	629.90	+7.10	...
Intl Income	519.90	547.30	-3.60	...
European	639.50	673.20	+26.50	...
Japanese	93.60	98.60	+1.10	...
SE Asia	299.30	315.10	-6.90	...
With Profits Reg	203.10	213.80	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	203.10	213.80	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	520.10	547.50	+2.70	...
Equity	712.80	749.70	-0.80	...
Property	252.70	266.00	+0.60	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	360.80	379.80	-1.70	...
Index Linked	232.40	244.70	-0.20	...
Cash	300.20	316.00	+0.30	...
Nth American	553.50	582.70	+2.80	...
Far East Acc	236.60	249.10	+0.30	...
International Acc	412.30	434.00	+7.50	...
Special Sits	921.30	969.80	+13.30	...
European Flex	968.60	1019.60	+49.80	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units), Kev†	297.54	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker†	471.44	...	...	...
-do- Cash	230.21	242.33	+0.18	...
-do- Equity	883.00	929.47	+22.31	...
-do- Fxd Int	466.87	491.44	+3.08	...
-do- Managed	608.33	640.35	+14.33	...
-do- Property	476.34	501.41	+2.67	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	222.03	233.72	+0.11	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Cash Inv	366.46	385.76	+0.45	...
-do- Equity Cap	2305.28	2426.61	+17.27	...
-do- Equity Inv	3804.85	4005.12	+31.17	...
-do- Fixed Cap	501.10	527.54	-0.04	...
-do- Fixed Inv	827.16	870.70	+0.52	...
-do- Index Cap	240.05	252.70	-0.32	...
-do- Index Inv	396.21	417.08	-0.24	...
-do- Mngd Cap	891.57	938.51	+6.04	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1471.54	1549.00	+11.00	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)†	1355.71	...	-42.90	...
Var Ann (5)†	143.42	...	+3.80	...
Prime Managed	604.10	635.90	-2.80	...
Prime UK Equity	839.20	883.40	+0.50	...
Prime Int Equity	385.10	405.40	+7.00	...
Prime Property	286.10	301.20	...	...
Prime Fxd Int	293.60	309.10	-0.70	...
Prime Index-Lnk	212.50	223.70	-0.20	...
Prime Cash	235.70	248.20	+0.30	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1623.40	1708.80	...	...
Equity II	2594.30	2730.80	...	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut Wth Pfts (5&6)†	122.20	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2)†	115.00	...	+0.20	...
Managed (3)†	144.70	...	+0.70	...
Equity Mngd (3)†	146.10	...	+1.10	...
Adventurous (3)†	132.90	...	-1.90	...
Bristol & West (2)†	117.30	...	+0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	353.00	371.60	+2.60	...
Managed S1	347.40	365.70	+2.00	...
Adventurous S1	272.10	286.50	+3.90	...
Managed (2)	236.60	249.10	+1.40	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	469.30	486.40	+2.80	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)†	123.60	...	-0.20	...
Secure (2)†	116.70	...	+0.10	...
Managed (2)†	148.10	...	+0.80	...
Equity Mngd (2)†	152.20	...	+1.20	...
Adventurous (2)†	135.20	...	-2.10	...
Bristol & West (2)†	119.50	...	+0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	473.30	498.30	+3.90	...
UK Equity	686.80	723.00	+2.10	...
Stewardship	554.80	584.00	-4.40	...
Overseas Equity	427.70	450.30	+6.20	...
North American	268.90	283.10	+0.90	...
Pacific Basin	117.20	123.40	-1.20	...
European	475.10	500.20	+17.20	...
Property	216.40	227.80	-0.80	...
Fixed Interest	311.50	327.90	-0.70	...
Index Linked	213.20	224.50	+0.20	...
Cash	232.30	244.60	+0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	686.80	722.90	-1.20	...
Managed	1077.40	1134.10	+8.80	...
Deposit	397.90	418.80	+0.40	...
Property	602.50	634.30	+0.50	...
American	761.80	801.80	-2.50	...
Australian	674.50	710.00	-4.90	...
European	1191.70	1254.40	+49.70	...
Income Acc	1270.40	1337.20	-13.60	...
-do- Dist	689.20	725.40	+8.30	3.97
International	458.90	483.00	+6.80	...
Japan Smaller	251.60	264.80	+3.00	...
Singapore & Mal	262.30	276.10	-6.30	...
Tokyo Fund	520.80	548.20	+0.40	...
UK Equity	969.30	1020.30	+2.50	...
CCM Vangd Mg	1145.70	1206.00	+7.30	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	226.30	238.30	-4.10	...
GT Plan Wwide	625.90	658.90	+4.50	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	927.60	927.60	+7.60	...
-do- Inv A	927.50	976.40	+8.00	...
UK Equity	651.30	685.70	+0.70	...
Gilt Plus	252.30	265.60	-0.80	...
Managed	425.30	447.70	+3.70	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	312.60	329.00	-1.70	...
Unitised Profit	173.90	183.10	+0.30	...
UK Equity	493.90	519.80	+0.30	...
Fixed Int	247.80	260.80	-0.70	...
Index-Linked	205.60	216.40	-0.10	...
Cash Deposit	199.40	209.80	+0.10	...
Property	213.30	224.40	+0.20	...
International	241.70	254.40	+1.70	...
American	307.60	323.70	+1.10	...
Japan	165.90	174.60	+0.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	169.90	178.80	+0.30	...
European	322.70	339.60	+12.60	...
Pacific Fund	184.60	194.20	-5.40	...
Conv Life	203.80	214.40	-0.30	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	714.60	752.20	+4.00	...
Managed Initial	431.10	453.80	+2.10	...
Equity Ord	1249.80	1315.60	+0.90	...
Equity Ink	754.00	793.70	+0.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	250.90	264.10	-0.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	158.10	166.40	-0.10	...
Oseas Equity Ord	490.40	516.20	+8.40	...
Oseas Equity Init	295.90	311.50	+5.00	...
Property Ord	331.60	349.10	-0.40	...
Property Init	200.00	210.50	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	362.70	381.80	-0.90	...
Fixed Int Ink	218.80	230.30	-0.80	...
Deposit Ord	238.10	250.60	+0.20	...
Deposit Initial	143.60	151.20	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	991.50	1032.80	...	...
Managed Initial	656.30	690.80	+4.00	...
-do- Acc	1005.60	1058.50	-6.20	...
Equity Initial	1116.10	1174.90	+3.80	...
-do- Acc	1710.20	1800.20	-5.80	...
Fixed Int Initial	537.60	565.80	-1.10	...
-do- Acc	823.70	867.00	-1.70	...
Intl Initial	569.90	599.90	+8.90	...
-do- Acc	873.30	919.20	+13.70	...
Nth Amer Initial	328.10	345.30	-0.20	...
-do- Acc	457.50	481.50	-0.30	...
Pacific Initial	143.70	151.30	-1.60	...
-do- Acc	198.60	209.00	-2.20	...
Property Initial	204.60	215.30	...	...
-do- Acc	313.50	329.90	...	...
Index-Lnkd Inid	189.20	199.10	-0.20	...
-do- Acc	263.80	277.70	-0.20	...
Deposit Initial	212.80	224.00	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	326.10	343.20	+0.30	...
Euro Initial	179.70	189.20	+7.50	...
-do- Acc	231.60	243.80	+9.60	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611118				
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.54	40.57	+0.02	...
Balanced	38.39	40.41	-0.01	...
Opportunity	39.48	41.56	+0.05	...
Deposit	27.21	28.64	+0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	30.61	32.22	+0.04	...
Balanced S2	30.89	32.52	+0.15	...
Opportunity S2	30.40	32.00	+0.18	...
Deposit S2	25.76	27.12	+0.10	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	253.80	267.10	+2.10	...
-do- Pens	338.60	356.40	+3.40	...
UK Equity	301.40	317.20	+2.30	...
-do- Pens	385.70	405.90	+3.40	...
International	195.20	205.40	+4.10	...
-do- Pens	221.20	232.80	+5.60	...
Deposit	160.20	168.60	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	197.90	208.30	+0.30	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	863.40	908.80	+9.00	...
Global Property	360.50	379.50	...	...
Global Fixed Int	676.00	711.60	-1.20	...
Global Equity	955.30	1005.60	-11.50	...
Global Cash	245.80	258.70	-0.20	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	206.00	216.90	+0.20	...
Brit Opps Int	226.90	238.90	+1.00	...
-do- Acc	312.10	328.60	+1.50	...
Cash Initial	174.00	183.20	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	332.00	349.50	+0.40	...
Equity Initial	1055.00	1110.60	+1.30	...
-do- Acc	2012.40	2118.40	+2.40	...
Fixed Initial	409.10	430.70	-0.60	...
-do- Acc	780.30	821.40	-1.30	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	155.70	163.90	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	253.40	266.80	-0.20	...
Intl Initial	382.80	403.00	+6.10	...
-do- Acc	718.90	756.80	-11.40	...
Managed Initial	654.20	688.70	+3.90	...
-do- Acc	1247.90	1313.60	+7.30	...
Property Initial	242.30	255.10	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	462.30	486.70	+0.50	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£225.30	...	-2.40	...
Property Units	3365.80	3542.90	+2.60	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	9691.00	£102.01	-54.30	...
2nd Equity Acc	1060.10	1115.80	-0.20	...
2nd High Inc Ac	1015.00	1069.20	+5.40	...
2nd Property Acc	301.30	317.00	+0.20	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	226.30	238.10	+1.00	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	670.90	706.10	+3.70	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	305.20	321.20	+1.90	...
2nd Deposit Acc	325.40	342.40	+0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	390.00	410.40	-0.90	...
2nd Amer Acc	1144.00	1205.10	+2.90	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	252.70	265.90	+4.80	...
2nd Index Acc	255.20	268.60	+0.10	...
2nd Far East Acc	240.90	253.40	-7.80	...
2nd Global Acc	205.90	216.60	+3.40	...
2nd Euro Acc	285.90	300.80	+14.90	...
2nd Japan Acc	108.80	114.40	-0.30	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	180.30	189.70	+3.50	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	197.30	207.60	+1.20	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	641.80	675.50	+0.50	...
Managed	603.00	634.70	+3.40	...
American	681.50	717.30	+1.50	...
UK Equity Fd	769.70	810.10	-0.20	...
Japan	119.80	126.00	+0.30	...
Index-Lkd	228.60	240.50	...	...
High Yield	1411.50	1485.70	+7.60	...
Money	462.30	486.50	+0.40	...
International	462.70	486.90	+7.70	...
Perpetual Active	437.30	460.30	+4.90	...
Growth Acc	942.90	992.50	+5.30	...
Gilt Edged	552.40	581.40	-1.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	260.80	274.50	+13.60	...
Far East	127.40	134.00	-4.10	...
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity†	1500.50	...	-2.70	...
Fixed Interest†	573.60	...	-3.20	...
Property†	515.10	...	+0.90	...
Deposit†	342.00	...	+0.30	...
Mixed†	882.20	...	+1.30	...
Indexed Stock†	282.90	...	-0.40	...
International†	357.90	...	+3.90	...
Equity A†	346.50	...	-0.60	...
Fixed Int A†	253.30	...	-1.40	...
Property A†	225.40	...	+0.40	...
Deposit A†	200.10	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A†	286.60	...	-1.50	...
Index Stock A†	220.50	...	-0.30	...
International A†	222.60	...	+2.50	...
Equity P†	1354.50	...	-1.20	...
Fixed Int P†	799.40	...	+4.00	...
Property P†	391.10	...	+0.60	...
Deposit P†	415.50	...	+0.90	...
Mixed P†	861.10	...	+2.20	...
Index Stock P†	328.10	...	-0.10	...
International P†	442.30	...	+5.70	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap†	717.10	...	+5.60	...
-do- Acc†	1398.80	...	+12.20	...
Property Cap†	140.70	...	...	...
-do- Acc†	261.20	...	+0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap†	219.00	...	-0.60	...
-do- Acc†	410.30	...	-0.70	...
Equity Cap†	470.30	...	-0.90	...
-do- Acc†	899.10	...	-1.00	...
Internatl Cap†	273.40	...	+3.40	...
-do- Acc†	515.90	...	+6.80	...
Gtd Deposit Cap†	159.10	...	...	...
-do- Acc†	295.90	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap†	449.00	...	-0.80	...
-do- Acc†	854.20	...	+2.30	...
Moneymaker Fd†	639.40	...	+1.50	...
Capital Growth†	2922.00	...	+3.60	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	730.00	766.60	+2.10	...
Amer Rec Bond	861.70	904.90	+18.20	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	357.00	374.90	+0.70	...
Australasia Bd	288.40	302.90	-6.30	...
Commodity Bond	336.70	353.60	-7.90	...
Deposit Bond Acc	415.00	435.90	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	2362.20	2480.40	-42.80	...
European Bd Acc	750.70	788.30	+32.30	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1275.40	1315.70	-23.10	...
Gilt Bond Acc	580.10	609.20	-2.40	...
Gold Bond Acc	129.30	135.90	-6.50	...
High Yield Bond	517.60	543.60†	+0.60	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	258.60	271.60	...	...
International Bd	992.50	1042.30	+14.80	...
Japan Bond Acc	149.70	157.30	+0.50	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	166.50	174.90	+1.10	...
Managed Bonds	1296.50	1361.40	+31.40	...
Prop Bond Acc	635.20	667.00	+8.70	...
Rec Bond Acc	1264.20	1327.50	-12.20	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	235.10	247.00	-7.40	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	355.80	374.60	+0.30	...
UK Equity Acc	565.80	595.60	+0.90	...
Special Sits	150.20	158.20	+0.20	...
Special Sits Acc	238.90	251.50	-0.40	...
North American	295.90	311.50	+2.00	...
N American Acc	470.70	495.50	+3.60	...
Pacific Basin	252.90	266.30	-4.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	402.30	423.50	-6.90	...
Fixed Interest	330.30	347.70	-1.20	...
Fixed Interest Acc	525.90	553.60	-1.50	...
Property	203.80	214.60	+1.00	...
Property Acc	324.50	341.60	+1.70	...
Deposit	157.60	165.90	...	...
Deposit Acc	251.00	264.30	+0.40	...
Managed	359.90	379.70	+1.30	...
Managed Acc	528.50	556.40	+2.40	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	494.60	520.60	+0.40	...
UK Equity	610.00	642.10	+1.80	...
Gilt Edged	808.50	851.00	-0.80	...
Interest Fund	462.20	486.50	+0.70	...
Managed Fd	697.60	734.30	-4.60	...
Intl Equity	789.90	831.40	+6.30	...
North American	363.80	382.90	+0.30	...
Far East	343.50	361.50	-10.10	...
Intl Currency	282.00	296.80	-0.60	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	722.10	760.10	+3.40	...
UK Equity	1098.40	1156.20	+0.30	...
Overseas Equity	597.60	629.00	+3.00	...
American	675.90	711.40	-5.60	...
Far East	409.80	431.30	-10.50	...
Property	250.10	263.20	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	505.90	532.50	-1.00	...
Indexed Gilt	295.50	311.00	-0.30	...
Deposit	251.00	264.20	+0.30	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	203.10	213.90	+1.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 146, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2281.80	2404.00	+13.90	...
Equity Fund	5519.60	5810.10	+26.70	...
Property Fd	782.20	823.40	+0.70	...
Fixed Int Fd	796.20	838.10	-4.70	...
Deposit Fund	408.30	429.80	+0.50	...
Intl Fund	356.00	374.70	+4.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	481.60	508.10	...	...
Fxd Interest Acc	319.10	336.70	-0.90	...
International Acc	345.20	364.20	+3.90	...
Managed Acc	320.00	337.60	+0.80	...
Property Acc	233.30	246.10	+0.20	...
Money Acc	176.30	186.00	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	269.60	284.40	+3.00	...
Japan Equity Acc	74.50	78.60	+0.10	...
N Amer Acc	296.20	312.50	+0.20	...
Pacific Acc	94.60	99.80	-2.70	...
European Acc	361.20	381.10	+13.90	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	151.60	159.60	+3.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	391.60	412.30	+7.90	...
Inv Equity	2157.30	2270.90	+7.60	...
Inv Managed	1349.30	1420.40	+11.20	...
Ret Managed	1578.10	1661.20	+9.90	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 578334				
Managed	532.40	554.60	+12.10	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	1200.80	1264.00	+10.60	...
Equity Fund	2810.80	2958.60	+12.90	...
Intl Fund	857.60	902.80	+17.60	...
Fixed Interest	722.80	760.90	-0.80	...
Property Fund	560.20	589.70	+0.40	...
Cash Fund	419.10	441.20	+0.40	...
Pacific Basin	252.10	265.40	-4.50	...
N American Fd	522.00	549.50	+6.80	...
Euro Fund	562.60	592.30	-31.30	...
Balanced Fund	236.90	249.40	+2.60	...
Strategic Fund	266.80	280.90	+2.70	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)†	1151.80	...	+2.20	...
-do- Acc	602.52	634.22	-0.98	...
Op Prop	575.10	605.40	...	...
Op Equity	1647.80	1734.50	+0.60	...
Op High Yield	778.90	819.90	-1.20	...
Op Managed	1202.20	1265.50	+5.80	...
Op Deposit	451.20	474.90	+0.30	...
Japan Smlr	123.00	129.50	+1.30	...
Managed Gth	409.70	431.30	+10.00	...
British	608.50	640.50	+7.30	...
Global Bond	124.10	130.60	+1.60	...
Gold Share	62.30	65.60	-1.20	...
Japan	253.50	266.80	+2.50	...
UK Smlr Cos	741.90	780.90	+3.40	...
Mngd Growth	682.30	718.20	+11.20	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	581.00	611.50	+0.90	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	109.30	115.70	+0.10	1.80
Deposit Fund (2)	438.90	464.10	+0.40	7.12
Gilt Fund	684.20	722.80	-2.10	7.03
Global Equity Fd	309.40	327.50	+4.60	...
Property Fund (46)	139.60	147.80	...	6.50
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	988.70	1040.80	-1.00	...
Fixed Interest	470.00	494.80	+1.20	...
Index-Linked	244.20	257.10	-0.70	...
International	571.10	601.20	+14.00	...
Property	359.30	378.30	...	...
Cash	261.60	275.40	+0.20	...
Managed	669.60	704.90	+3.10	...
Cap Gteed Bd	205.90	216.70	-0.20	...
95% Safeguard	115.00	...	+0.00	...
100% Safeguard	105.50	...	-0.20	...
Wealth Pres Cap	120.40	...	+0.70	...
Wealth Pres Inc	142.50	...	+8.70	...
Bonus Bond†	113.60	...	-0.10	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	209.39	220.41	+0.19	...
Index-Linked	209.60	220.60	-0.30	...
Fixed Interest	239.10	251.70	-1.10	...
Mixed	392.20	413.00	-3.00	...
UK Equity	397.40	418.30	-6.20	...
International	368.60	388.10	+2.50	...
American	516.90	544.10	-2.80	...
Japan	171.90	180.90	-0.30	...
European	507.10	533.80	+15.30	...
Pacific	268.40	282.50	-6.30	...
Technology	695.00	731.50	+0.10	...
Frgn Bd/Crrcy	253.50	266.90	+5.90	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	273.90	288.40	+0.30	...
UK Equity	640.30	674.00	-0.80	...
American	450.20	474.00	+4.70	...
Pacific	274.20	288.70	-4.10	...
European	823.60	867.10	+29.00	...
Global Mgd	393.20	414.00	+4.00	...
Fixed Interest	315.10	331.80	-2.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	253.60	267.10	-0.20	...
Deposit	225.40	237.40	+0.20	...
Managed	431.70	454.60	+1.20	...
Worldwide	146.10	153.90	+1.20	...
Pen Worldwide	159.60	168.10	+1.50	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2683.50	2766.50	...	...
Safety Fund	319.90	336.70	...	...
Growth Fund	357.50	376.40	+1.90	...
Opportunity Fd	365.10	384.40	+2.10	...
Cash Fund	200.00	210.60	+0.20	...
European Fund	654.20	688.70	+35.60	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	274.00	288.50	-1.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	231.00	243.20	+0.10	...
International Fd	378.70	398.70	+9.90	...
North American	454.50	478.50	+1.30	...
Property Fund	139.10	146.50	...	...
UK Equity	429.40	452.10	-0.90	...
UK Smaller	364.60	383.80	+4.50	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	414.70	436.60	+8.00	...
Equity	490.80	516.80	+5.10	...
International	368.30	387.70	+5.00	...
Property	277.30	291.90	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	334.10	351.80	+1.40	...
Index Linked	232.70	245.00	-0.30	...
Cash	212.40	223.70	+0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1232.70	1311.40	-13.70	...
Cash Fund	387.70	408.60	+0.40	...
Property Fund	359.50	378.90	+3.30	...
Equity Fund	1241.90	1321.20	+18.30	...
Fxd Interest Fund	652.50	687.60	+1.00	...
International	521.30	554.60	+7.50	...
High Income	1252.70	1332.70	+16.60	...
Far East	448.10	476.80	-4.00	...
North American	993.80	1057.30	+10.60	...
Special Sits	1135.20	1207.70	+21.40	...
Technology	1215.60	1293.20	-3.50	...
Extra Income Fd	666.40	709.00	+4.30	...
Gilt Fund	565.90	602.10	+0.60	...
European	271.80	289.20	+11.10	...
Adventurous Mg	297.30	313.30	+3.90	...
Secure Mgd	212.70	224.20	-0.80	...
Equity Inc Dist	174.70	184.10	+1.10	4.14
Managed Dist	143.60	151.40	+0.80	4.87
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	514.10	547.00	+0.40	...
North America	605.80	644.50	+7.30	...
Far East Fund	422.00	449.00	-11.20	...
Global Managed	673.10	716.10	+8.60	...
Deposit Fund	261.50	275.40	+0.30	...
Prime Residential	150.10	158.10	...	...
European Fund	501.50	533.60	+21.80	...
Fixed Interest	65.10	69.30	+0.60	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1596.40	1596.40	+9.20	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1438.40	1514.20	+8.70	...
Inv Pol 3	1351.20	1422.40	+8.20	...
Inv Cash	363.50	382.70	+0.20	...
Mixed Fund	680.40	716.30	-1.60	...
Equity Fund	917.30	965.70	-4.50	...
Property Fund	319.50	336.40	+0.30	...
International Fd	629.70	662.90	+8.60	...
Fixed Interest Fd	498.50	524.90	-1.90	...
Indexed Stock Fd	252.70	266.10	-0.30	...
Cash Fund	264.80	278.90	+0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	591.10	622.20	+9.80	...
Equity Acc	820.20	863.30	-16.90	...
International Acc	420.60	442.70	+3.00	...
Property	269.60	283.70	+0.30	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	309.80	326.20	+0.20	...
Equity	1805.20	1900.30	-10.10	...
European	273.60	288.10	+8.00	...
Far East	138.40	145.70	-0.80	...
Fixed Interest	526.40	554.20	-1.30	...
Index Linked	270.20	284.50	-0.10	...
International	769.30	809.80	+8.00	...
Managed	1074.30	1130.90	+0.70	...
Nth American	252.90	266.30	-0.50	...
Property	445.00	468.50	+0.60	...
Pensions				
Cash	504.80	531.40	+0.60	...
Equity	2895.70	3048.20	-22.70	...
European	382.10	402.30	+11.30	...
Far East	102.60	108.10	-2.30	...
Fixed Interest	779.00	820.00	-2.10	...
Index Linked	394.30	415.10	-0.50	...
International	1157.20	1218.20	+8.20	...
Managed	1642.10	1728.60	-4.80	...
Nth American	361.00	380.10	+0.10	...
Property	685.80	721.90	+0.90	...
Stock Exchange	367.40	386.50	-0.50	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1111.50	1170.00	+6.90	...
Equity Fund	1608.40	1693.10	+8.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	543.10	571.70	-0.60	...
Index-Linked Fd	416.60	438.50	+0.50	...
Property Fund	602.40	634.10	+4.80	...
International Fd	1025.90	1079.90	+7.20	...
N American Fd	532.50	560.50	-0.30	...
Far East Fund	192.30	202.40	-5.70	...
Deposit Fund	348.00	366.30	+0.20	...
Intnl Bd†	£141.80	...	+120.00	...
Worldwide Bond	175.10	184.30	+2.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	351.70	370.20	+15.10	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1128.40	1187.80	+7.10	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	685.00	732.60	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund†	709.80	...	+5.40	...
-do- Acc†	653.90	...	+4.90	...
Agricultural Fd†	960.30	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc†	912.10	...	+0.90	...
Abbey Nat Fd†	520.20	...	+2.50	...
Abbey Nat Acc†	543.40	...	+2.50	...
Investment Fd†	599.40	...	+3.50	...
Investment (A)†	572.30	...	+3.40	...
Equity†	2379.80	...	+12.10	...
Equity Acc†	2260.10	...	+11.40	...
Money Fund†	564.00	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc†	534.90	...	+0.30	...
Actuarial Fd†	989.20	...	+6.20	...
Gilt-Edged Fd†	512.30	...	-0.70	...
-do- Acc†	512.30	...	-0.70	...
Retire Annuity†	1523.80	...	+2.00	...
Immed Annuity†	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life†	263.00	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc†	2524.90	...	+66.50	...
Managed Acc†	1311.70	...	...	...
Equity Account†	2120.30	...	...	...
Mngd Fund Acc	595.30	626.60	+2.40	...
Equity Fund Acc	914.60	962.80	+5.60	...
Prop Fund Acc	337.60	355.40	+3.40	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	424.50	446.80	+0.70	...
Money Fund Acc	254.00	267.40	+0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Sec Ac	258.40	272.10	+0.10	...
Pers Pens Acct†	3097.50	...	+109.90	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1439.20	1514.90	-53.60	...
Pens Guarantee	333.20	350.80	+0.60	...
Pens Equity	620.90	653.60	+24.60	...
Pens Property	390.80	411.40	+3.80	...
Pens Fixed Int	429.40	452.00	+4.40	...
Pens Intl	347.60	366.00	+15.80	...
Pens Money	284.50	299.50	-0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	260.50	274.20	+1.10	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1338.50	1409.00	+20.60	...
Property Acc	493.10	519.10	+2.10	...
Equity Acc	2516.10	2648.60	+30.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	541.50	570.00	-1.30	...
Cash Acc	359.50	378.50	+0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	693.90	730.50	+4.00	...
Japan Acc	184.80	194.60	-1.20	...
Pacific Acc	267.10	281.20	-11.80	...
Far Eastern Acc	588.90	619.90	-13.40	...
International Acc	755.50	795.30	+8.20	...
Distribution Fund	374.40	394.20	-2.20	4.88
European	345.80	364.00	+11.90	...
Defrd Dist	257.40	271.00	-0.50	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	429.00	451.70	+2.90	...
Property Fund	257.40	271.10	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	287.90	303.20	-1.00	...
Money Fund	231.90	244.30	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	591.30	622.50	+6.60	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	1070.60	1126.90	+1.60	...
Money Fund	367.00	386.30	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	1063.90	1119.80	+2.40	...
Fixed Interest	367.10	386.40	-3.60	...
Property Fund	464.20	488.60	-0.30	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	889.20	935.90	+0.50	...
Income	1228.60	1293.20	+3.90	...
International Gth	862.90	908.30	+8.60	...
Capital Fund	923.40	972.00	+2.20	...
Recovery Fund	627.80	660.80	+3.40	...
Japan & General	177.00	186.30	+0.30	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.90	21.99	+0.02	...
Bear	30.25	31.84	-0.51	...
Owl	34.19	35.98	+0.02	...
Bull	27.34	28.77	+0.04	...
Stag	26.39	27.77	+0.13	...
Gilt Edged	24.19	25.46	-0.24	...
Deposit	17.99	18.93	+0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	29.73	31.29	+0.04	...
Bear	45.92	48.33	-0.94	...
Owl	51.32	54.02	-0.02	...
Bull	38.64	40.67	+0.10	...
Stag	37.19	39.14	+0.36	...
Gilt Edged	32.86	34.58	-0.40	...
Deposit	24.33	25.61	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund†		908.39	+1.32	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	590.81	621.90	+1.40	...
N Amer Equity	475.01	500.01	+0.25	...
Far East Equity	289.94	305.19	-7.02	...
Fixed	387.72	408.12	-3.74	...
Cash Deposit	236.90	249.36	+0.24	...
Property	197.78	208.18	-0.15	...
Special Opp	512.59	539.56	+2.72	...
Managed	476.30	501.36	+0.70	...
Index-Linked Fd	235.74	248.14	-2.39	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	889.30	936.10	+1.30	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	484.90	510.40	-4.60	...
Life Equity Acc	1403.90	1477.70	-3.20	...
Life Money Acc	344.90	363.00	+0.40	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1170.40	1232.00	+1.80	...
Life Intl Acc	610.00	642.10	+6.10	...
Life High Inc Acc	1388.90	1462.00	-32.80	...
Life Property Acc	311.00	327.30	-0.20	...

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Peace of mind for OEIC investors

From Mr Paul Kafka

Sir, I am responding to a letter (Reject Fidelity status change, May 2) from Mr S.M. Drage. Mr Drage has been asked, along with more than 300,000 other investors, to accept a change of his investment fund structure from a unit trust to an open-ended investment company (OEIC).

However, Mr Drage is wrong in asserting that this change of status will be adverse to his or anybody else's interests.

Protection of unit trust investors under the trust structure will, in many ways, be replicated by the protection of the OEIC investor under the provisions of company law for listed companies.

The millions of investors who own shares in quoted companies on the Stock Exchange are less well protected than those investors who invest in Fidelity's OEIC. This is for the following reasons.

First, the strictly regulated nature of those instruments in which an OEIC might invest (listed securities only, none with unlimited liability, restricted use of derivatives) and the fact that only limited borrowing is permitted under the regulations, means it is highly unlikely that a sub-fund of an OEIC could incur liabilities exceeding its assets.

Secondly, to cover the very remote risk of cross-liabilities between sub funds of an OEIC, Fidelity is organising specific insurance that will provide the OEIC with protection against defaulting sub funds.

Thirdly, under the regulations and their contracts of engagement, the relevant Fidelity companies involved in managing the OEIC accept liability for losses caused through their negligence etc.

The point I wish to make to Mr Drage, and anyone else who has any doubts about this change of status, is that the risk of a claim from one sub-fund to another is extremely remote and that, in any event, investors are more than adequately protected against it.

It is more than Fidelity's reputation is worth for us to be anything other than focused entirely on the interests of our long-term investors.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KAFKA,
Executive Director,
Corporate Communications,
Fidelity Investment Services Limited,
Oakhill House,
130 Tonbridge Road,
Hildenborough,
Tonbridge,
Kent, TN11 9DZ.

Four tax codings so far, and counting

From Mr D.S. Cox

Sir, Further to Mr West's letter (Incompetence at the Revenue, May 2), I have received four tax codings since February 15. Number three showed my correct state benefits, number four was wrong, two and three were issued on Friday, March 13 with different figures. I hope number five will show my correct state benefits. Finally, sometime in the summer, I hope to receive number six with my 1998-99 personal allowance and not the 1997-98, which is all I have seen so far.

Yours faithfully,
D. COX,
8 Ninnings Road,
Chalfont St Peter,
Buckinghamshire, SL6 0EF.



Our prizeless bonds, age 41

From Mrs M.E. Bruce

Sir, I read your excellent article (More investors take a punt on Premium Bonds, April 18). My husband has had a £5 Premium Bond since November 28, 1956, when they were first issued and has not had a win. As you can imagine, £5 was a large sum in 1956 and I wonder what this would have been worth today if it had been invested instead in a building society.

I have also had a bond since April 5, 1978, and again no win. We have moved house only once since 1956 and I have registered the change of address.

Yours faithfully,
M.E. BRUCE,
64 Armley Grange Avenue,
Leeds, LS12 3QN.

How my bank deprived me of £800 — by doing nothing

From Mr Neil McWilliam

Sir, Client disillusionment with the service and attitudes of clearing banks has, clearly, been an important factor in banking sector growth of demutualised building societies, and in telephone banking.

I recently deposited over £100,000 in a current account at NatWest, intending to move the full amount from the account within days. In the event, and for several reasons, days extended to weeks before I was able to clear the total sum. At no time did the bank see fit to advise me that the deposit should find a temporary home in a high-interest reserve account, thus, by my calculations, earning the bank £400 to £800 gross via short-term investment.

Long may the decline of the clearing banks continue. I will, of course, be playing my part.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL McWILLIAM,
130 Longhurst Lane,
Mellor,
Marple Bridge,
Stockport,
Cheshire, SK6 5PJ.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

The Bank of England decided on Thursday to leave interest rates on hold at 7.25 per cent. The pound slid to its lowest levels this year. Wim Duisenberg, the nominee for the presidency of the European Central Bank, added to sterling's weakness by restating that Britain would need to demonstrate a period of exchange-rate "stability" before joining the single currency.

SHARES in Royal Bank of Scotland rose on Thursday after the bank unveiled better-than-expected interim profits. This calmed City fears about RBS's debts in Asia and the quality of its lending in the UK. George Mathewson, the bank's group chief excecutive, said he was "relaxed" over RBS's £630 million bid for Birmingham Midshires Building Society which has been trumped by a £780 million offer from Halifax.

MORE than 170,000 UK policyholders of AMP, the Australian insurer, will enjoy a windfall of about £3,700 each, an increase of more than 20 per cent since last September. AMP published its prospectus on Wednesday and estimated the share price at A$12.50 to A$16. The shares are expected to begin trading on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges on June 15.

THE Government is preparing to publish proposals for a Kitemark-style award to help investors to choose value-for-money financial products when the individual savings account (Isa) is introduced in April 1999. The hallmark has the working title of the "Catmark", so called because it will lay down criteria for the contract, access and terms of all Isas sold. The emphasis will be on flexibility, on making the product widely available, and on there being no hidden charges. A draft paper will be published within the next three weeks and the industry will be able to respond to the proposals.

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Clare Stewart reports that National Savings is losing its appeal as rivals launch better accounts

Loyal savers eye greener grass

National Savings, the Government-backed range of savings accounts, can claim vital statistics that banks and building societies would kill for. Thirty million customers have £63 billion invested in a range of products from savings accounts to pensioners bonds. Yet these customers are growing increasingly dismayed by the returns offered on their cash — returns which have recently been cut again. As National Savings prepares to transfer all its back-office functions to either EDS of the US, or Siemens in Germany, we report on the institution founded by Lord Palmerston to promote thrift.

National Savings certainly has national appeal. There are 16 million ordinary account holders, 4.5 million investment account holders and 3.4 million Savings Certificates holders, whose investments alone total £20 billion. Some 23 million people have £10 billion invested in Premium Bonds in in the hope of scooping a £1 million jackpot.

All National Savings products, as Government-backed savings instruments, offer low-risk and easy-to-access options that you can buy at the Post Office. But however secure, is it worth the extra effort to shop around and see if there are better deals? The answer is an unequivocal yes. "There is a lot of money tied up. National Savings rates used to be competitive but people have not woken up to the fact that the rates are no longer as attractive," said Amanda Davidson of Holden Meehan, an independent financial adviser.

National Savings has two main objectives — to raise money for the Government and to encourage saving. But while Premium Bonds are booming, no doubt helped by the public enthusiasm for the National Lottery, interest rates on some of National Savings' other products look less enticing.

"National Savings are convenient and safe but there are better deals around. I wish it would offer better rates," added Ms Davidson. "People are now more willing to shop around, so there is a lot more competition."

The National Savings ordinary account for example, an instant-access account, pays 3 per cent on amounts up to the maximum investment of £10,000, but there is no income tax on the first £70 of annual interest.

Savers need to weigh up the importance of that benefit when looking at the better interest rates available on other leading instant-access accounts. The top rates currently available, according to Moneyfacts, the savings information group, show that the Woolwich is paying 6.5 per cent on its Card Saver account while the Clydesdale Bank is offering 6.75 per cent on its instant-access savings account.

Compared with postal and telephone instant-access accounts, National Savings is up against Safeway offering 7.3 per cent on £1,000.

Similarly National Savings investment accounts pay a top rate of 6.5 per cent gross on £50,000 and above. Notice accounts offered by other groups are currently paying 7-8 per cent, while for people prepared to put money aside for longer, Tessas are paying 8 per cent and above, with the added attraction of tax-free earnings. A number of National Savings products offer a rate of interest fixed for five years. The Pensioners Bond, for example, is currently paying 6.1 per cent fixed for five years, with a minimum investment of £500, while the current issue of Savings Certificates comes with 4.8 per cent compound interest if held for five years.

Opting for one of these products depends on whether you think interest rates are more likely to fall than rise in the future. James Higgins, at advisers Chamberlain de Broe, does not believe that locking into National Savings rates is the best option. "Given the gap between the net returns from National Savings range and the alternatives available, the hedge simply isn't worthwhile."

At present, says Mr Higgins, he is not recommending National Savings products to basic-rate taxpayers among his clients because of the unattractive rates on offer. However, products such as Savings Certificates, both conventional and index-linked, on which no income or capital gains tax is payable, are more attractive for higher-rate taxpayers.

Putting some of the portfolio into Savings Certificates can be "a useful hedge against the possibility of higher investment taxes in future," said Mr Higgins, as well as offering tax efficient returns, albeit at a lower rate than could be earned elsewhere.

"It is a shame because the National Savings Certificates were not intended as a tax break for the wealthy, but that is where they have most use," said Mr Higgins.

National Savings says the interest rates it offers reflect rates in the short and medium-term money market and those on offer from competitors, as well as being affected by government policy on debt repayment or raising new finance.

It also adds that while its rates on products such as Pensioners Bonds are not as high as competitors, it offers the attraction of a lower entry level with a minimum holding of £500 for investors.

However, National Savings is at last responding to increased competition with a complete product review now under way. "There are needs to be addressed and we need to be more relevant to certain sections of the population," said National Savings. "There is a younger market to be tapped and we are looking at new ways to sell products such as over the phone or the Internet."

Details of new products are expected by the end of this year, and certainly well before the introduction of the individual savings account (Isa) next April. Isa will allow up to £5,000 to be invested tax-free each year, in cash, shares and life assurance. National Savings says it is looking at developing its own Isa-compatible product as well as considering linking with other financial institutions wanting to offer a cash option to clients.

NATIONAL SAVINGS



National Savings has always aspired to encourage families to save: with memorable poster artwork

NEW REGULAR SAVINGS DEALS

After criticism that it does nothing for those who wish to save a little each month, National Savings says that it plans to launch a regular savings account when individual savings accounts (Isa) come into existence in April next year.

In the meantime, those who want the discipline of committing a minimum amount of money to a regular savings account each month have to look elsewhere. Some attractive rates are on offer at banks and building societies, provided that you can maintain regular payments into the account. The average monthly deposit can be as little as £1. Most institutions put a ceiling on the maximum contribution, ranging from £100 to £500. This week Alliance & Leicester has launched a regular savings account offering from 6.5 to 7 per cent depending on whether you opt to save over one, two or three years. This rate includes an annual bonus. You can invest a minimum of £20 a month and a maximum of £500, by standing order only.

Although Alliance & Leicester's terms and rates are above average, statistics from Moneyfacts, the savings information provider, show that the highest regular savings rates are currently being offered by the Furness and the Yorkshire building societies who both offer 7.8 per cent. The Furness Bonus Builder requires a minimum investment of £10 a month and a maximum of £100. If you fail to maintain your payments, you could lose some of the interest on the account. This is a feature of most regular savings products.

Rates of between 7.7 and 7.75 per cent are currently available at Britannia, West Bromwich and Nationwide building societies.

The lowest rate currently being offered to investors is 3.85 per cent by Triodos Bank. But the bank says that the rate is currently under review and will be "raised in line with the market from the beginning of June". A spokesman points out that with Triodos, depositors are assured that the bank invests only in projects that have a positive social and environmental value.

KAREN WOOLFSON

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Susan Emmett reports on a row triggered by Northern Rock

Societies and banks called to account

JOHN McLELLAN



Dawn and David Woodley say Northern Rock is not treating all customers equally

Banks and building societies could soon be forced to notify all their customers of changes to their accounts after a statement this week from Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

The statement comes after Northern Rock's failure to write to all account holders in a recent debacle over the reorganisation of its savings products. Mrs Liddell said: "I am extremely concerned about evidence of banks not being straightforward in the dealings with their customers, in particular not alerting customers that they could get a better deal with a different account. I have asked my officials to investigate."

Earlier this year Northern Rock pledged to inform all its customers of any account changes. This week, the bank emphasised that it wrote to all 1.1 million customers before restructuring the postal accounts and reducing the number of accounts from 11 to three at the end of last month. The change affected about 200,000 — 20 per cent of savers — and left many worse off, including some with as much as £1 million on deposit.

Adam Applegarth, group executive director for Northern Rock, said: "It is encouraging to see comments in the press that the Consumer Affairs Minister is pressing banks and building societies to write to customers when they alter rates and to get rid of obsolete or dormant accounts. This is precisely the actions we have taken. I believe our moves will, in time and on reflection, be seen as setting the industry standard."

However, many savers were alerted of the changes only after reading *The Times* and a number received notification from the bank only after the accounts had been restructured. Although Northern Rock is adamant that all letters were sent on April 17, several readers, including Ken Lewis, from Essex, received notification only on April 29. Mr Lewis said: "I believe they are taking seriously unfair advantage with their recent change when it comes to their larger investors." Savers are particularly incensed that about 89 savers were allowed to transfer their money instantly to the Save Direct Instant Account which pays higher rates.

Among the angry investors are Dawn and David Woodley who counted on income from a Select 90 account to top up their pension. They are particularly aggrieved that they received notification onlyon contacting Northern Rock after a report in *The Times*. The retired couple, who live in Colchester, Essex, have already applied to withdraw their savings, but they will still lose £120 over the two-month notice period.

Dawn Woodley said: "It's the principle of the whole thing. We are very disappointed with Northern Rock's attitude. We are mainly cross that certain people complained and were given a concession. That to me seems unfair. If some people can get it, why not everyone?"

Barclays launches its b² to take on financial newcomers

Barclays took on the newcomers to the financial services market this week with the launch of a new telephone-based company aimed at building society savers. The company, b², aims to emulate the customer-friendly approach of Virgin Direct, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Marks & Spencer to persuade ordinary savers to invest in the stock market. It will initially offer a single scheme — the Advanced Savings Account, a Pepable blue chip fund. Available on May 18, it has not received total acclaim.

Savers can invest their money in three, five or seven-year plans. A proportion of the savings, currently 13.9 per cent, will be used as insurance so that if the market does not rise, investors get back every penny as well as any income from the savings at the end of the period. If the markets perform badly 85 per cent of savings are guaranteed.

The Advanced Savings Account can be opened with £500 or £50 a month and savers can take as many payment "holidays" as they wish. There are no charges for withdrawals but the annual fee is 1.5 per cent, considerably higher than many comparable products.

The new product was criticised as lacking in originality and not offering good value for money. John Spiers, chairman of BESt Investment, said: "Where is the beef? I didn't feel the product was terribly revolutionary. It identified most of the problems but didn't come up with the right solutions.

"The suspicion with this product is that it is not good value for money. Over five years it is extremely rare to lose money on an equity investment. There have been no five-year periods since 1981 where there has been a significant fall. The benefit of the guarantee over five years is pretty low."

Mr Spiers said Legal & General has been running a guaranteed FTSE 100 tracker Pep for nearly five years. The fund has £141 million under management and grew by 125 per cent over the period.

Unlike the b² product, where a part of your investment is set aside as a guarantee, Legal & General promises to pay the difference if your investment is less than your initial deposit at the end of five years. There are no withdrawal fees and a 0.5 per cent management fee. However, there is no guarantee if you withdraw the money before the end of five years.

Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe said that shorter-term, guaranteed trackers are more flexible. Mr Bolland said Close Bros and AIB Govett both offered guaranteed trackers on a three-month rolling contract. The funds invest in the UK FTSE but have a US and global option.

SUSAN EMMETT

*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 17/11/86 to 1/3/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +85.75%, 1/3/93 to 1/3/98). #Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/3/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.

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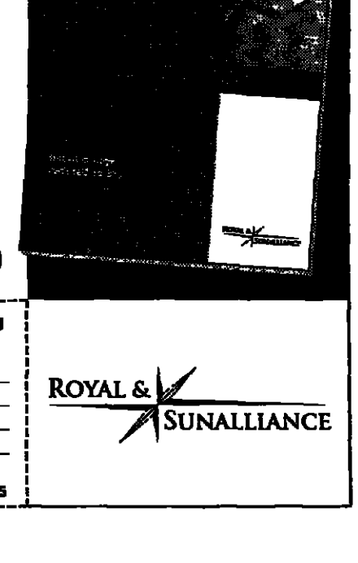
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BUYBACK MYTHS 55

Graham Searjeant on the gulf between City and investors

WEEKEND MONEY

SCHOOL DAZE 55

Taking the worry out of paying for school fees



Pensions miss mark as 'split on divorce' rules near

Most personal pensions have failed to pass a series of tests grading them for flexibility and performance. The results of a survey of 120 plans, carried out by Chartwell, a firm of financial advisers, based in Bath, has raised fears that the majority of pensions now on the market will not match benchmarking criteria to be introduced by the Government.

The life insurance divisions of some big banks and the Prudential, were among those found wanting by Chartwell, largely as a result of large commissions deducted from contributions. However,plans from Eagle Star, Legal & General, Marks & Spencer, National Mutual, NPI, Royal Sun Alliance, Standard Life and Virgin appear on the list of those meeting the low charge and performance paradigm.

Within weeks, ministers will announce value-for-money "Catmark" rules, so-called because they will cover charges, access and terms for the new individual savings accounts (Isas). These guidelines will be followed by similar regulations setting the model for the proposed stakeholder pensions. All pension companies will be eager to sell stakeholder pensions, the Government's proposed solution to abuses in the pension market and the low level of provision by many people.

Chartwell first assessed the pensions for "cleanliness". A "clean" pension should not have any hidden charges or impose penalties for career breaks or early retirement. Two-thirds did not meet the required standards. Of the remaining third, only a half offered good fund performance.

☐ As part of its wider pension reforms, the Government is planning rules allowing pensions to be split at divorce. The proposals which should be revealed next month will treat the pension, like any other household asset, including the family home. The measures will allow wives without retirement savings to claim part of their husbands' pensions. Formal arrangements will be laid down for the apportionment of the pension which should prove more succesful than the attempt made by Penny and Alan Brooke, of Elstronwick, near Hull to divide the family home after their divorce. They split their converted barn into two dwellings with a connecting door so that their children Adam and Francesca could have access to both parents. The local authority is trying to veto the scheme.

ANNE ASHWORTH

ROSS PARRY



The Brookes with daughter Francesca and son Alan outside the barn they divided after divorce

INSIDE



57 Anne Ashworth on Barclay's new savings venture

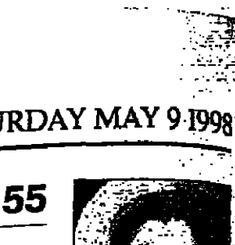
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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Caroline Merrell reports excluded members are voting with their feet

RAC deal prompts AA surge



Sir Eric Parker backs the former chief executive

Stirrings among the windfall elite

The deal has not only angered the ordinary RAC associate members. Some of those who stand to gain most from the takeover are worried at the speed of the sell-off.

Among the most annoyed is Jeffrey Rose, the former chief executive, who was sacked when he chose to alert the 12,000 full members of the club over the potential for selling off the breakdown operation. He said: "I did not think that a profit-driven commercial enterprise was appropriate for the club."

Mr Rose, with a group of dissident members, is hoping to oust the 16-strong board at an extraordinary general meeting likely to be held next month. The EGM will also vote on the Cendant proposals — a straight majority of those voting is all that is needed to accept the offer. Mr Rose said: "I am offering members a board of ten rather than 16." He has been angered at the speed of the sell-off. The proposals to float off the breakdown division were only made public just over a month ago. The RAC then proceeded with an auction, which attracted seven or eight bidders. Cendant offered the most. Mr Rose said: "I think we need a lot more information about Cendant, there may be a better solution." He claims he has a lot of support from executive members backing his bid for reinstatement.

Sir Eric Parker, the former chairman of Trafalger House, is backing Mr Rose. Sir Eric is also hoping to be elected to the new board. He too believes that the full members need more information about the other offers and about the Cendant deal before any decision can be made. He said: "We have not got many details. We had no idea what was going on, then all of sudden we have this offer."

Cendant has not said what it hopes to do with the RAC, should it win. Henry Silverman, chief executive, hopes to make big cost savings, according to the *Wall Street Journal Europe*, by greatly reducing the size of the RAC's roadside fleet.

C.M.

The six million members of the RAC have the opportunity to express their dissatisfaction with a deal to sell off the breakdown service to Cendant, an American conglomerate, by switching their allegiance to the AA.

Any mass move by RAC members could scupper Cendant's £450 million offer, which is expected to pay windfalls of £35,000 to a 12,000-strong band of elite members who enjoy the benefits of an exclusive Pall Mall club. A quirk in the structure of the RAC means that the sell-off does not financially reward the ordinary members.

The US company is hoping to reap profits from the takeover by cross-selling its services to the six million RAC members. Cendant owns hotels, the Avis brand, an estate agency and a timeshare operation in the US. The membership list is the single most important asset in the proposed takeover, although the deal does involve the sale of BSM.

Cendant's advisers in the UK and Neil Johnson, the RAC chief executive, who stands to benefit from the £35,000 windfall, claim that the Cendant offer is the best fit for the RAC breakdown division. The US company already owns Green Flag, another motor rescue service, and NCP, the car park company — both are recent acquisitions. Mr Johnson himself is almost certain to earn a highly paid executive position with Cendant if the bid succeeds.

The bid understandably has angered some ordinary members of the RAC. According to the AA, the RAC's biggest rival, applications from dissatisfied RAC members have risen by 50 per cent since the deal was annouced last week. A spokesman said: "We have had hundreds of calls. Many seem to be finding it difficult to resign from the RAC, as they cannot get through."

The AA has an entirely different structure — any move to sell it off would reward all the members. The AA, however, points out that it has no intention of demutualising. John Maxwell, chief executive, believes that it is possible to run an efficient mutual organisation that offers the best service for the lowest cost.

One dissatisfied member is Ian Allsop, from Doncaster. He had been an RAC member for 30 years. Earlier this week he decided to leave the RAC for ever, because he was so incensed by the Cendant deal. He said: "We have had no correspondence from the RAC about the takeover. I really think they should have taken the trouble to write to me. After all, they are actually buying up the membership list, not the Pall Mall club." Mr Allsop claims that there is little difference in the price of the services offered by the AA and the RAC. He said that he did not relish the thought of receiving a lot of "junk mail" from Cendant in its attempt to make the RAC breakdown company more profitable.

This week the AA launched a huge advertising campaign to try to attract disgruntled RAC members. AA membership costs between £41 and £151 according to the level of service and the method of payment. The AA is also waiving the £3 joining fee for those joining from the RAC.

Buy now to boost your holiday cash

Britons planning to holiday abroad this summer are being advised to buy foreign currency now if they can afford it (Gavin Lumsden writes).

This week saw the pound slide on the foreign exchanges after months of climbing against the world's main currencies. The reversal has been sparked by final preparations for the euro, the single currency due to be launched in 11 European countries next year.

Some analysts predict that sterling could fall by as much as 10 per cent in the next six months against the mark, the German currency now acting as a proxy for the unborn euro. With ten other European countries now effectively linked to the German currency, UK holidaymakers could do well to make the most of current spending power.

"The best of the pound is all in the past," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief capital economist at Paribas, an investment bank. Thomas Cook, the travel agency, said its London branches had been "inundated" with extra demand from people reacting to sterling's fall.

However, be warned. Currency markets are notoriously volatile and speculating on where they will go is always risky. Banks and travel agents charge 1.5-2 per cent commission. If you are exchanging large amounts of sterling you will be better with a provider charging a flat fee such as American Express Travel, which charges £3 on all deals.



The planned introduction of the single currency next January is a catalyst for change across Europe. And change creates opportunities, as investors have already realised.

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Looking after baby's finances is big business

Bappies, the babies of affluent professional parents, expect and get the best things in life. Designer clothing, rather than Mothercare outfits, organic cuisine rather than McDonald's, the all-terrain pushchair rather than the collapsible buggy. They even have their own style magazines, *Junior* and *M*, which chart the latest bappie trends. These children travel long-haul to exotic destinations.

These new discerning consumers also look for the best savings deals. Showered with money at birth, they now have the choice of an array of accounts. They can choose between the new supermarket banks which offer higher rates than their traditional high street competitors and special children's accounts from building societies with above-average returns and welcome-packs bristling with goodies.

The smart child looks for an instant access to his cash, enabling him to move fast to take advantage of new offers. At Nationwide, holders of the Smart2 Save instant access account not only enjoy a rate of 7.50 per cent, paid on deposits of as little as £1, and a range of giveaways, but can also save the planet by helping to adopt a tamarin monkey at the London Zoo.

Make the most of pocket money, page 43

ARTHUR POLLACK/BOSTON HERALD



And bappie came too: babies are a fashion and finance market